

Moriah Pardo
Westchester/Fairfield Director
Letter of Intent

I'm excited to be running for the Westchester/Fairfield Director. I know that getting more involved with the region will give me a greater understanding of how something I love so much works. Ever since my first kallah in fall 2014, NFTY has shown me that I can continue my Judaism in a fun and active way. The people I've met in NFTY have truly changed my life for the better and made me into the person I am today.

When I was younger, in 2008, I spent my first summer at Eisner Camp. Being in such a welcoming Jewish community inspired me to go to the camp for 7 more years and continue learning about my Judaism after my Bat Mitzvah. My Jewish involvement continued at home when I joined my temple youth group, SoSTY, and became a board member my second year. I'm currently the CVP and MVP of SoSTY where I have learned to recruit people to join my TYG. I come from a small TYG with very few members, but over the past couple years, we have been able to recruit more members from upcoming confirmation classes, and our youth group is slowly growing. This past fall semester, I attended NFTY Heller High (EIE) in Israel. Being with dedicated NFTY teens from other regions of the country really gave me different perspectives and ideas.

Going to camp all those years shaped who I am as a person and a leader. I'm a very friendly person who isn't afraid to go up to someone and start a conversation about their day. I love talking to people and helping them with their problems. I'm also a very hard worker and have picked up skills from NFTY and camp that helped me realize that I can get anything done if I put my mind to it. Also being away from home for four months on Heller High (EIE) really gave me more independence and taught me to look out for others, and not just myself.

As I said earlier, I am a board member of SoSTY, which is on the smaller side of TYGs in NFTY. Before my first NFTY NAR event, I was nervous because I knew there would be a lot of teens I wouldn't know. It was difficult to transition from a small TYG event where everyone knew each other to a much larger regional event with people from all over the New York area. I believe there are others who feel the same way I did going to regional event, and I want to make regional events even more comfortable and welcoming. As the Westchester/Fairfield Director, my goal will be to create sub-regional events that will bring smaller and larger youth groups together to create a community where people are familiar with and happy to see each other, and give them confidence going into a NFTY NAR regional event.

NFTY is a huge part of my life and I couldn't imagine a world without it. The friendships that I've made I know will last a lifetime. NFTY has made me into a better person and changed the way I look at the world and react to it. I want to show future NAR-ites that they can have the same love for NFTY that I do, and feel like they are in a comfortable environment where they can be who they want to be.