

Dear NFTY Northeast Representatives,

My name is Erica Burke and I am the President of the Plymouth Area Temple Youth group (PARTY). PARTY has somewhat of a reputation in NFTY-NE for being one of the smallest youth groups in the region. As the president of such a small youth group, I felt as though I did not have much to do. Or just not as many responsibilities as the president of a youth group with thirty plus kids would have. The size of my youth group, however, did not stop me from feeling honored and privileged to be able to call myself the President of a reformed Jewish teenage youth group. Being active in NFTY has made me become familiar with certain aspects of my character that I had never noticed before. I feel as though I have become a very approachable person, along with some other great leadership qualities. I now know that a leader needs to be calm yet energetic, humorous yet disciplined, independent yet sociable, and careful yet easygoing. There are so many attributes that one needs to consider for being a leader, and it is also vital to realize that there are many different kinds of leaders. Why am I interested in being a regional officer? The more appropriate question is how could I not be interested? Being able to watch the incoming years of NFTY participants and actually being able to contribute to their experience would be the greatest gift one could get. I would be so honored to even be considered to be on regional board next year. My life would not be the same without NFTY and being involved has honestly made me a better person. To be on the NFTY Northeast Executive Board would give my life an even greater meaning and I am aware of the responsibilities that come along with the positions. I want nothing more than to be able to prove myself as an admirable leader and to be able to contribute to the NFTY participants experience in the well-known and spirit-lifting "NFTY bubble".