



# North American Federation of Temple Youth ★ ★ ★

An affiliate of the UNION *for* REFORM JUDAISM and branch of Netzer Olami

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As the Reform Jewish teen leaders of North America, we come together to declare our wish for a world where people of all sexual orientations and gender identities can be supported and accepted. We are avid participants in our Temple Youth Groups, mentors and confidants at our regional events, and we look forward to learning and engaging at our conventions. We are scouts, former scouts, and friends of the scouting community. We are people who admire the core values of the Boy Scouts of America that mirror the NFTY principles of קהילה (*kehilah* - Community) and תיקון עולם (*tikkun olam* - Repairing the World) so beautifully. However, our movement – 7,000 strong – opposes the BSA's discriminatory policy that excludes gay scout leaders.

Although we appreciate the progression of BSA to be more inclusive of gay scout members, we encourage these steps toward inclusivity to continue further - to include support for all members of the gay community. In 1993, the NFTY General Board voted to boycott BSA for its exclusionary policies. However, this legislation has gone without notice over its twenty year history. Proud NFTYites today are also proud Eagle Scouts. We would like to take this twenty year anniversary of our boycott to acknowledge the strides that both movements - NFTY and the BSA - have made, as well as the dramatic social progress and increasing visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in North America.

Scout Law states, "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." NFTYites share these qualities. And we hope that one day, this organization that strives to be so accepting truly embraces the world and all that inhabit it. We - the North American Federation of Temple Youth - firmly believe this includes gay scout leaders. We are all *b'tzelem elohim* - created in the image of God.

This is not the end of our commitment to make our world a better place for all members of our community.

Signed,

Jordan Rodnizki  
NFTY PVP 2012-2013

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