

## **Regional Elections at a Glance**

### *Guidelines for Youth Professionals*

Thank you for taking some time to read this elections guide! Regional board elections are one of the most important parts of the NFTY Central West Year. The seven teens elected to lead the region have a large hand in creating NFTY CWR for the calendar year. Thank you in advance for the support and guidance you will provide to regional board candidates.

Below are some helpful tips if you have a teen that approaches you about running for regional board. For a detailed description about expectations throughout the elections process, please refer to the [NFTY CWR Elections Packet](#). All teens are expected to read this packet in its' entirety. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Samara ([sleader@urj.org](mailto:sleader@urj.org)).

1. Overview of Elections Process:
  - a. The elections packet is live on January 26, 2016. Any teen who has been to at least to NFTY Central West events is eligible to run.
  - b. **By Sunday, February 21 at 5 PM:** all teens who are planning to run must send initial communication to Samara, CWR Regional President Alea, and the person who currently holds the position he/she plans to run for.
  - c. Teens running for board are required to have follow up conversations with CWR Regional President Alea and the person who currently holds the position he/she plans to run for. Candidates and a parent are also required to speak with Samara as well.
  - d. **By Tuesday, March 1:** All additional candidate materials are due to Samara and Alea. These include:
    - A "Meet the Candidates Position Flyer" (questions and outlines are contained within the elections packet),
    - A 100-word bio written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person for the website
    - A photo for the website
    - An application signed by the candidate, the candidate's parent, and the youth professional (or clergy member if no youth professional is available).
  - e. **At Spring Conclave:** Election speeches (4 minutes in length) will take place on Friday night of the event. Caucusing and voting will happen Saturday afternoon. A teen may drop down once to a position lower in the gavel order. If a teen chooses to drop down, he/she will have the opportunity to give a 1 minute speech.
  - f. If a teen is running who is unable to attend the event, there is a separate process that includes submitting video speeches. Teens running absentee will be informed throughout the elections process.
  - g. There is absolutely no campaigning outside of the specific times/elections steps that are outlined.

2. Youth Professional Role with Candidates:

- a. As the youth professional, you know your teens' strengths and weaknesses and can help guide them through the elections process. By signing off on their application to run, you are indicating that you feel this teen is capable of rising to the challenge of CWR regional board. Teens aren't elected with the expectation that they are 100% ready—they are elected on their potential to grow and fulfill the responsibilities of their role. You should be confident that the teen you're signing off on is capable of this growth. Some things to consider:
- Is this teen open to hearing feedback?
  - Are they responsive when you email/call/text them?
  - Do they meet deadlines?
  - Are they capable of having high-level conversations about engaging new teens?
  - Are they good at time management?
  - Are they a hard worker?
  - Are they positive?
  - Will they be a welcoming presence to new and younger NFTYites?

Again, teens are elected on their potential. It is impossible to know with 100% certainty what the regional board experience will be like; your role in the process helps to prepare teens as fully as possible.

3. Possible questions to ask a teen during a candidate conversation:

- a. Why did you decide to run for regional board?
- b. What do you think the most rewarding part of the process will be?
- c. What do you think might be challenging for you?
- d. Regional board is a significant time commitment, and NFTY expects that you make regional board your number one extracurricular priority. Are you okay with this? Do you think you'll need to look at any other extracurriculars to see how they may fit in?
- e. What will feel look like if you win? What will it feel like if you don't win? How can we help you to stay involved if regional board doesn't work out?

Thank you again, and please follow up with me if you have questions!

Best,  
Samara