



Sophie Richardson

NFTY CAR PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE 5777 - 5778

About Me

Hey NFTY-CAR! My name is Sophie Richardson and I am currently a Junior at Libertyville High School. At school, I am a member of our Varsity Scholastic Bowl team and all available writing clubs. In my free time I read, write, and hit the roller rink on Friday nights. I also enjoy my time as a tutor/nanny for two incredible young girls who empower me to make the world a better place for them to grow up in. Camp CAR keeps me busy and I love every minute of it. This past year has served as an incredible learning experience for me as I have taken on new challenges and leadership positions that I have learned so much from. This summer I will be in Avodah Corps at OSRUI and maybe even finding myself an internship somewhere in Chicago!

Qualifications

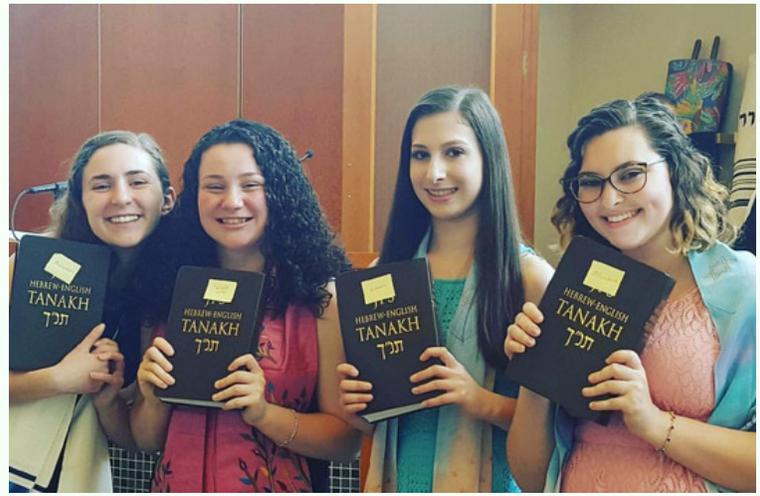
NFTY CAR SAVP	2016-2017
Camp CAR Leadership Team	2015-2017
Jew Crew SAVP	2015-2016
3 year Madricha at Or Shalom	2013-2016
Writer's Week Program Team	2014-2017

K'hilah Community K'hilah

Now, more than ever, it is important to create a place where **any individual feels welcome**. NFTY has always focused on inclusion, and in this last year alone NFTY-CAR has passed legislation, as well as created cabinet positions, emphasizing the importance of being accepting and accommodating of as many people as possible. This task though, is admittedly a difficult one. In order to bolster our regional support of each other I hope to create more **pop up events** between our larger events in order to **mend the gap between TYGs** during the school year. This could enhance our regional efforts to form a meaningful community that holds additional support to school friends and contacts. These events, as simple as **Shabbat service together**, would serve as a reminder of the community NFTY CAR creates when we are together. This inclusion also means making space for new people to come into our community. Through connections with organizations like Keshet, I would push for inclusion of all Jewish teens of Chicagoland Area, regardless of how much accommodation is needed to make them feel comfortable. I want NFTY-CAR to be **more than just an activity outside of school**; I want it to be somewhere that people don't just see as having space for them, but rather having a place for them.

Let Voices Be Heard

To make a place for everyone, we as a region must not just be inclusive, but also allow for more voices to be heard. We as a community must **empower each other before we can empower others**, and the best way to do this is to listen to each other. In order to do this though, we must work as a **cohesive entity to encourage each other**. This includes nominating individuals to give their view on NFTY on our NFTY blog. By doing this, I intend to enhance the communication between individual participants. Additionally, I intend to **expand the regional cabinet** to entertain the interests of participants. Together, we are a youth driven movement that cannot exist without the leadership of the community. We are the movement, and we must listen before we act. The best way to do this, is to **give everyone the opportunity to speak up**.



Not the Future, but the Present

Often times, teenagers are told that we are the future. That's great and all but in NFTY, we are the present. For us, that means it is **our responsibility to make the future of NFTY feel welcomed and needed**. To do so we must **expand NFTY teen participation in NFTY678 events** in order to develop more connections with the 678 participants. Together, we must **make communication of ideas between ages a respected expectation**. By doing so, we will be able to develop a stronger foundation to build our movements future into **something we can all be proud of**. Strengthening the future will strengthen the present, and the best way to do that is by giving the middle schoolers a chance to see how good the Jewish community can be.

"No leader should be set over the community without first consulting it." ~ ~ Talmud, Berakhot