



AARON FREEMAN

Candidate for NFTY-CAR
Social Action Vice
President

5779-5780 | 2019-2020

QUALIFICATIONS

- President of OPRF Youth Activism and Civics club 2018
- Participant and scientific researcher for the Positive Impact Symposium 2019
- Active OPTY participant Since 2016
- Jewish Student Connections participant since 2016
- Freshman and sophomore representative to OPTY 2016 - 2018
- Springboard New York City tikkun olam trip 2017
- Springboard Los Angeles Judaism in Hollywood trip 2018
- Oak Park Temple religious school madrich 2017-2018
- Graduate of Oak Park Temple Confirmation Class with Rabbi Weiss 2018
- OSRUI Camper 2016-2017 and Avodahnik 2019
- Camp CAR Counselor 2019
- Helped organize a peace circle program for NFTY CAR Winter Kallah 2019

ABOUT ME

Shalom NFTY-CAR! I'm Aaron Freeman, and I am excited by the opportunity to be your Social Action Vice President for the upcoming term. I am currently a junior at OPRF High School, where I enjoy playing on the tennis team, and participating in Table Tennis club, Chemistry club, Chinese club, and Youth Activism and Civics club. Outside of school you can find me playing guitar and singing at School of Rock, and constantly listening to music. I have always had a great passion for the sciences, and most of my time this past school year has been consumed with completing my scientific research project focused on the improvement of methods for the removal of lead from contaminated soil, and later this spring I will be presenting this project at multiple science competitions.

Since NFTY-CAR Kickoff in 2017, I have been an avid participant in NFTY. I have found a warm and welcoming community in NFTY-CAR, that I have experienced nowhere else, and as your SAVP I would put my best effort forward to spread this feeling of support beyond our Jewish community to promote peace and to help those in need, to ultimately fulfill our duty of *tikkun olam*.



PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Whether it be learning about the conflicts in Israel, gender roles in popular media, or systems of non-violence, almost every NFTY-CAR event features programs focused on educating participants on social issues. Unfortunately, most of the time, an hour long program is the extent of this education, until the next event. Being an effective activist requires persistence, action, and on-going education, and the current approach to social action in NFTY-CAR limits our ability to make a lasting difference. As Social Action Vice President, I would work to organize pop up events, such as talks from activists and politicians, volunteer opportunities, and educational experiences, in order to promote learning and social action throughout the year. Additionally I would collaborate with the Communication Vice President, to promote opportunities for NFTY-CAR members to individually participate in social action. If these plans were put into action, NFTY-CAR has the potential to create a lasting positive impact in the communities of Chicago.

PROTECTING THE TEVA

As teens in today's world, climate change and environmental destruction are some of the most pressing issues, affecting almost every aspect of our future. I have spent the past seven months conducting an original research project centered around environmental restoration, and throughout this time my passion for the protection of the environment has grown. I would like to make eco-friendly practices a part of all NFTY-CAR events. Making recycling, and compost easily accessible at every, as well as including educational programs that promote environmental awareness and activism are just a few of the steps we can take. NFTY-CAR has the privilege of having two events at camp OSRUI annually, where participants have the opportunity to experience life surrounded by a natural landscape, it is our responsibility to ensure that this beautiful place, and teva (nature) as a whole is protected for future generations.

BEYOND CAR

The NFTY community extends far beyond Chicago, and it would be foolish to completely separate our social action initiatives from those of the other eighteen NFTY regions. As your SAVP I would collaborate with my network of SAVPs from the other regions in an attempt to create a more unified and socially relevant movement for justice across the nation. Effective social action requires a community determined and willing to make the world a better place, and the larger and more unified that community is, the more impactful our efforts can be.