

 **NFTY**
SOCAL



New Members Packet
2017-2018 | 5777-5778

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Dear New Member,

Welcome to NFTY SOCAL! My name is Ellie Ross and I am your 2017-2018 Membership Vice President, or MVP for short. It is my pleasure to get to welcome you to your first NFTY SOCAL event and to help you find your place in this loving community.

This packet is here to help introduce you to NFTY. In it you will find vocabulary we use, our schedule, leaders in our region, and more!

NFTY SOCAL encourages you to explore not only your identity as a Jew, but also creates space for you to explore your identity in every aspect of your life. At a typical event, you will be introduced to hundreds of people and participate in inclusive activities such as services, programs, and mixers. Even though it may seem a bit intimidating, I am here with the whole NFTY SOCAL community to welcome you.

As cliché as this sounds, the people you meet at NFTY SOCAL events will become some of your best friends. You will return from NFTY events with a bunch of new phone numbers and random huge group chats!! You will leave NFTY weekends gaining a new community, counting down the days until the next event, and needing a nap!

One piece of advice I would give to you is to buy into the experience. It is okay to be nervous and a little confused. Each event has its unique flavor, so I encourage you to experience them all! Try something new, leave your comfort zone, and go in with a positive attitude!

I am always here for you and I cannot wait to meet you at your first ever NFTY SOCAL event! If you need anything throughout this entire year, you can always reach out!

L'Shalom,

Ellie Ross
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LEADERSHIP

Regional Board

Asher Bank
President

Gabe Perluss
Programming VP

Kevin Gibson Weinberger
Social Action VP

Ethan Gage
Religious & Cultural VP

Ellie Ross
Membership VP

Max Liu
Financial VP

Camila Grossman
Communications VP



Regional Staff

Lily Gottlieb
Regional Advisor

VOCABULARY

ABBREVIATIONS

- NFTY: North American Federation of Temple Youth (We are the Southern California Region!).
- TYG: Temple Youth Group.

NAMETAG

- Nametag: A tag you wear all weekend that contains your name, information on such things as your bunk and program groups, and the schedule for the entire weekend.
- M1/M2 (on your name tag): The 1st and 2nd mixers of the weekend.
- P1/P2 (on your name tag): The 1st and 2nd programs of the weekend.

PEOPLE

- Big Sibling: You (the new members, “little siblings”) will each be assigned a “big sibling” – someone who is active in the region and can show you the ropes of NFTY SOCAL!
- Bus Captains: Staff on bus transportation to and from events.
- Medical Team: Full time medical professionals on-site and available to help with any and all medical needs.
- NFTYite: YOU! What we call the participants of NFTY.
- RA Team: Head counselors/staff who supervise the cabins, the cabin staff and the in-cabin experience. Go to them if you have any cabin issues or questions.
- Regional Board: Also known as RegBo, a board of 7 teens who are elected to plan and lead NFTY SOCAL events and programs.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

- Asefah: A large official meeting of the entire region to discuss legislation and other things to be voted on. Dress code is “NFTY Formal,” and REMEMBER TO BRING SNACKS!!!
- Big Fun: Saturday night social program (always a surprise) - remember to dress up!
- Closing Circle: Each night, and Sunday morning (at the end of the event) all of the NFTYites gather in a circle and reflect on the memories and highlights of the day/weekend!
- Havdallah: Saturday night close to Shabbat, followed by the NFTY cheer – get ready!
- Mixers: “Get to know you” activities that help participants meet each other, make new friends and connect with the NFTY SOCAL community.
- Network Time: Occurs at the same time as electives. TYG board members meet with the Regbo member with their corresponding position.
- NFTY Beads: NFTYites will receive a bead at the end of every event; each bead will represent a different event and they go on your “NFTY necklace” that’s given to you at your first event. If you lose a bead, no worries. I have replacements!
- Electives; a period of time where we have various activities for participants. Participants can choose which activity they want to partake in.
- Cabin Time: The time to change, get ready and chill before a program.
- Song session: Time to sing and dance!

GOOD TO KNOW

- Birkat Hamazon: The prayer after each meal.
- Brit Kehillah: More commonly known as “The Brit”, this is the main set of rules and expectations of the NFTY SOCAL community.
- 678 Events: Events hosted at temples around the region each year that allow middle schoolers to get a taste of NFTY SOCAL.

WHAT IS NFTY?

NFTY stands for the North American Federation of Temple Youth. NFTY is divided into 18 regions, and ours is called NFTY SOCAL (because we are located in Southern California) NFTY SOCAL not only provides you with lifelong friendships and memories, but also gives you leadership opportunities, networking skills, a drive for social action, a connection to your Judaism, and a family that expands all throughout Southern California. At our events you participate in mixers, programs, hang out time in the cabin, and learn lifelong skills.

NFTY STARTER KIT

- Favorite comfy shoes
- A water bottle
- Cuddly pillow
- Asefah Food (Asefah is a board meeting where snacks are encouraged)
- Big Fun Outfit (Saturday evening fun, optional dress up component of the weekend)
- Sunglasses
- Things to do on the bus/car ride (games, music, food, etc)
- A text from your Big (A mentor program we have between new members and returning members)

CHEER

If you hear these words, get ready... THEN GO CRAZY!!!

(Stomp clap, stomp clap, stomp clap, stop clap 5,6,7,8)

Leader: Say what's your name?

Response: Say NFTY (x3)

Together: Gonna live and die N-F-T-Y

Leader: NFTY's in the front

Response: Hey Hey Hey

Leader: Let me hear you grunt

Response: Ho Ho Ho

Leader: NFTY's in the middle

Response: Hey Hey Hey

Leader: Let me hear you giggle

Response: Ha Ha Ha

Leader: Never in the rear

Response: No No No

Leader: Let me hear you cheer

Response: (Cheers and Screams)

Leader: You got it?

Response: Yeah! (x2)

Together: It's in my knees, my knees are weak

It's in my mouth, (I cannot speak)

It's in my hair, it's over there, it's over there, it's everywhere!!

(Stomp clap, stomp clap, stomp clap, stop clap 5,6,7,8)

Leader: Say what's your name?

Response: Say NFTY (x3)

Leader: Pump, pump, pump it up

Response: (repeat)

Leader: Pump that SOCAL spirit up!

Response: (repeat)

Leader: Say keep, keep, keep it up

Response (repeat)

Leader: Keep that SOCAL spirit up

Response: (repeat)

Leader: Say who's the best?

Response: (repeat)

Leader: SOCAL's the best

Response: (repeat) (X2)

Together: Stop collaborate and listen. SOCAL's back with a brand new vision. We're getting jiggy with that nah, nah, nah, nah; NFTY SOCAL were gonna rock the house down. HELL YA! Cause we're rollin' down the street eatin' challah sippin' on some grape juice, laid back. I got my mind on SOCAL and SOCAL on my mind; 1, 2, 3 to the 4, SOCAL's back and were knockin' at your door, out of all of the regions SOCAL's the best, we party all night don't get no rest, PEACE!

TESTIMONIALS

“NFTY SOCAL is like nothing I could have ever imagined. When I used to think about a group of Jews coming together for some weekend retreats, I would never have expected it to become the home it is for me today. Holding some of my best friends and greatest mentors, NFTY has given me a place to be myself. I can express myself how I like and share my opinions freely because being my own individual is something looked so highly upon with this outstanding group of people. Now, when I look back on the day where I made the decision to go to my very first NFTY retreat, I look at it as the day that changed my life in such an amazing way. At the beginning, it can sometimes be a little tough to find your friends, but once you find those amazing people that will eventually become your family, I promise you will never want to stop coming back.” **Rachel Kraut, 11th Grade, Congregation Or Ami**

“NFTY SOCAL has honestly been such a huge part of my life. It has given me a perfect outlet to connect to Judaism with other high schoolers like me who aren't entirely sure how to 'be Jewish.' Not only have I made friendships that I know will last a lifetime, but I also made connections through one of the most important aspects of my life. I am incredibly grateful for the three years I've spent at NFTY and I cannot wait to enjoy my last year just as much.” **Mikaila Baumel, 12th Grade, Temple Israel of Long Beach**

“When I think of NFTY, I think of myself. NFTY came at a time when I had really started to decide, and helped me to decide, who I wanted to be. I learned how to be myself, and created friendships with seniors that lasted only a year, but that I will remember for a lifetime. I can't [know] what my life would have been like without starting NFTY; even though I didn't hear about it until just before joining, I don't remember a time it wasn't the next step in my life. I never expected to represent NFTY, and I never expected NFTY to represent me. It's incongruous with the rest of my life. If you want a normal high school experience, don't do NFTY. But if you want to experience more awkward joy, laughter, and love than you really know you want, there's a unanimity that you can find exactly that only in the Kehillah Kedoshah NFTY SOCAL has nurtured and fostered. **Garrett Layton, 12th grade, Congregation Beth Israel**

“NFTY SOCAL is an amazing experience filled with amazing and kind people. It was an amazing opportunity for me to create incredible friendships and learn more about myself than I was expecting. NFTY SOCAL helped me grow as a person and more importantly as a leader. My advice for new members is to always be yourself and to be open to new experiences and friends.” **Tommy Babb, 10th Grade, Leo Baeck Temple**

“It's no secret that NFTY SOCAL is a community of inspiring, loving and genuine people. I have rarely met friends who challenge me and support me the way the NFTY SOCAL community does. But NFTY SOCAL is not just a community. It is a mindset of compassion, of kindness, of passion and enthusiasm. Although it may seem that the NFTY SOCAL experience is made up of events and Kallahs, it is actually a continuous outlook on the world, on Jewish identity, and on the way we interact with one another. I am so grateful for the memories and friends NFTY SOCAL has given me, but more than that, I am grateful for the perspective it offers. NFTY SOCAL shapes the way I see the world.” **Aviva Intveld, 11th Grade, SOCAL at Large**

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

400-530	Arrival
530-600	Mixer 1
600-650	Dinner
650-700	Buffer
700-750	Service 1
750-800	Welcome
800-900	Program 1
900-930	Song Session
930-1000	Closing Circle

SATURDAY

900-950	Breakfast
950-1000	Buffer
1000-1100	Service 2
1100-1200	Electives
1200-1250	Lunch
1250-120	Mixer 2
120-220	Electives & Networks
220-320	Cabin Time
320-330	Buffer
330-600	Asefah
600-650	Dinner
650-750	Program 2
750-820	Cabin Time
820-920	Big Fun
920-1000	Havdallah

SUNDAY

730-800	Luggage
800-850	Breakfast & TYG Time
850-900	Buffer
900-1030	Closing Circle
1030-1100	Departure

CALENDAR

SOCAL 678: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Three, sub-regional youth experiences for grades 6-8, created in partnership with local congregations and the SOCAL 678 initiative. Plus, one immersive, weekend camp retreat!

678 Fall – Dec. 2, 2017

West Coast Party Jr. – Feb.16-19, 2018

678 Winter – Feb. 24, 2018

678 Spring – MAR. 24, 2018

NFTY SOCAL: HIGH SCHOOL

Five immersive, weekend camp retreats focused on Jewish identity, leadership development, community building and social justice, as well as an overnight for graduating Seniors. Now welcoming 8th graders to Spring Kallah!

Fall Kallah – Sep. 15-17, 2017

Social Justice Kallah – Nov. 17-19, 2017

West Coast Party – Jan. 12-15, 2018

Leadership Kallah – Mar. 2-4, 2018

Senior Event – Apr. 26-27, 2018

Spring Kallah – Apr. 27-29, 2018