

# STiFTY Board 2018-19 Application

Thank you for your interest in being on the STiFTY Board! We are inspired by your motivation to continue pursuing Jewish learning and community, and energized by your readiness to help others do the same. Below, find information to apply for candidacy for the 2018-19 STiFTY Board. Please return page 6 of this application, filled out, to Forrest by Friday, May 25, 2018, at 6:30pm in the mail at 1360 West Minnehaha Parkway Minneapolis, MN 55419 or via email at [Forrest@ShirTikvah.net](mailto:Forrest@ShirTikvah.net).

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Shir Tikvah  
שיר תקווה

## Basic Information About Board Members

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### Defining attributes of STiFTY Board Members

- Active and ambitious leader
- Cooperative team player
- Curious about Jewish learning and teaching
- Enthusiastic about Shir Tikvah life and Jewish community
- Imaginative thinker
- Positive human

### General information

- A STiFTY Board Member is a representative of both STiFTY and Shir Tikvah as a whole
- Board Members work in partnership with one another to engage their peers and younger students at Shir Tikvah in fun and meaningful education, programming, and events
- Board Member terms begin in June 2018 and end in May 2019

### Board Member responsibilities

- Attend and participate in regular meetings
- Contribute to a community of inclusion by treating everyone with whom they interact *b'tzelem elohim* (in the image of G-d)
- Engagement in NFTY (attendance at all Kallot and relationship-building with regional officers)
- Readiness to grow as a Jewish leader and help others do the same
- Study topics that will enhance their board experience and the experience of the youth group participants: Jewish text, youth engagement strategies, social justice theory, current events, community organizing, and communication approaches

## **Becoming a Candidate and Elections Process**

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### **Qualifications**

- Current student or alumni of Youth Education and Programming at Shir Tikvah
- Familiar with the goals and mission of Shir Tikvah

### **Becoming a Candidate**

To be accepted as a candidate for the 2018-19 STiFTY Board, one must...

1. Familiarize themselves with this document and all that it references
2. Sign and get a parent/guardian signature before returning by the deadline
3. Prepare relevant statements for elections speech

Once the above steps are complete, you will have officially entered the candidate pool. Candidates will speak during elections using the prompts below as their speech topic. Elections are Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 5pm to 8pm.

### **Elections Process**

Candidates will be elected in gavel order:

President,  
Programming Vice President,  
Social Action Vice President,  
Religious and Cultural Vice President,  
Membership Vice President, and  
Communications Vice President

1. Candidates for each position will deliver a two-minute speech outlining their vision for the year.
2. They will then take one minute of questions from the voting body, which serves as a chance to elaborate further on ideas with constituents and have them push your thinking.
3. Candidates will leave the room while votes are cast. The outgoing STiFTY President, Avia Kaner-Roth, and Forrest will privately count votes, notify the candidates first, and then announce to the voting body.

Once the new board is elected...

- Incoming board members will meet immediately after with Forrest
- Those who do not win will meet with outgoing STiFTY President, Avia

## Core Duties of the STiFTY Board

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### President

The STiFTY President holds the STiFTY and STiFTY Board visions for the year. Developing this vision should be part of their platform as a candidate, filled with well-thought-out and practical ideas for the year. The President works closely with Forrest to provide the structure needed to accomplish the goals of the Board and of the individual Board Members. The President is the chair of Board meetings.

### Programming Vice President

The STiFTY PVP holds the STiFTY programming vision for the year. The PVP creates event schedules with Forrest and fills them with *talmud Torah* - education and programming that is designed by and with the other Board Members. The PVP works closely with the President in elevating the programming for the year to ensure it is meaningful, fun, inclusive, and interesting.

### Social Action Vice President

The STiFTY SAVP holds the social justice vision and priorities for the year. The SAVP coordinates opportunities to involve STiFTYites in *tzedek* - social justice causes. The SAVP works closely with Forrest in the planning and execution of congregation-wide events like the High Holy Day Food Drive, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, etc.

### Religious and Cultural Vice President

The STiFTY RCVP holds the spiritual vision for the year. The RCVP designs ritual experiences for youth group events. The RCVP works closely with the President in enhancing the aspects of the youth group environment that pertain to Jewish atmosphere, including encouraging participant interest in text and prayer.

### Membership Vice President

The STiFTY MVP holds the membership vision and youth group's commitment to hospitality for the year. The MVP creates as many quality opportunities for participants to feel welcomed and participatory as possible. The MVP works closely with Forrest in teaching the board how to spread the word and bring peers into the JYG and STiFTY "tent."

### Communications Vice President

The STiFTY CVP holds the communications vision for the year. The CVP works closely with Forrest to layout all correspondence that is delivered to young people, families, and the whole congregation.

## Speech Prompts

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Every candidate is invited to deliver a two-minute speech addressing the following prompts. Question 1 is a general questions for all candidates. Question 2 is position-specific, and applicants should respond to whichever applies to them. Candidates should remember that their speeches are the first impression they provide their peers.

1. With regular board meetings, monthly events, and the constant need to plan or prepare for various projects, being on the STiFTY Board is an incredible commitment. How would you make sure it remains a priority amongst the needs of your personal well-being, family, school, and other extra-curriculars?

2. By position:

President

Being President comes with a lot of power. How will you lead the Board and the youth group with your own ideas while still providing others room to brainstorm, pursue their own goals, and be themselves?

Programming VP

A variety of people come to STiFTY events for a variety of reasons. How would you make sure that people from so many different backgrounds and with different learning styles and interests are engaged during our activities and events?

Social Action VP

Shir Tikvah is an exceptionally progressive community, especially when it comes to social justice and taking stands against wrong-doing. How will you bring this to the young people here, and how will you take it to the next level? How would you motivate people to engage in something that can be so tough to tackle?

Religious and Cultural VP

STiFTYites turn to youth group for a special religious community. How would you make spirituality and spiritual experiences in STiFTY meaningful, unique, and memorable?

Membership VP

Building relationships with current and potential members is key to youth group success. How would you build relationships with so many different types of people with the intent of bringing them in to the JYG STiFTY community?

Communications VP

Communication takes form in many ways. How would you use these different forms to make sure STiFTYites and families are in-the-know?

## Application for Candidacy

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Name:

Candidate for (circle one):

President

Programming VP

Social Action VP

Religious and Cultural VP

Membership VP

Communications VP

Cell phone:

Email:

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Please review this packet and all expectations of the STiFTY Board experience as a family. Your signature and that of a parent or guardian affirms your eligibility and readiness to be a candidate and potential Board Member. Please direct clarifying questions to Forrest.

Applicant signature:

Parent/Guardian signature:

Date: