



***Sarasota Area Federation
of Exemplary Temple Youth
(SAFETY)
Constitution***

Affiliate of Temple Sinai
Member of the *North American Federation of Temple Youth
Southern Tropical Region
(NFTY-STR)*

Written 2003
Updated 2008, 2021

Preamble

The members of the *Sarasota Area Federation
of Exemplary Temple Youth*, known as *SAFETY*,
do hereby ordain and establish
this Constitution.

Article I: Name

This organization will be known as *Sarasota Area Federation of Exemplary Temple Youth (SAFETY)*.

Article II: Affiliation

- A. This organization is an auxiliary of Temple Sinai, Sarasota, Florida.
 - 1. The Youth Advisory Committee of Temple Sinai will have advisory power to this organization.
 - 2. Any officer in this organization may hold seats on all the *SAFETY* committees that pertain to their position.

- B. *SAFETY* is an affiliate of the *North American Federation of Temple Youth-Southern Tropical Region (NFTY-STR)*.
 - 1. *NFTY-STR* is an affiliate of the *North American Federation of Temple Youth*.
 - 2. The *North American Federation of Temple Youth* is an auxiliary of *The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)*.

Article III: Purpose

We are committed to strengthening Jewish identity and connections, creating an environment that is accepting and open, building strong relationships among our youth and teens, and providing opportunities for leadership development.

Article IV: Membership and Dues

- A. All youth in grades 9-12 who are members of Temple Sinai and abide by the *SAFETY* Constitution will be eligible for membership.

- B. Any member in grade 8 of the *Junior Organization of Sinai Youth (JOOSY)* becomes a *SAFETY* member the day of the *SAFETY* Board Elections of that year.

- C. All dues will be included in religious school fees.

Article V: *Brit Chevre* (Code of Conduct) Violations

- A. Any member found to be in violation of the *NFTY*, *NFTY-STR*, or *SAFETY Brit Chevre* may be suspended at the discretion of the Youth Advisor and the Temple Sinai Executive Board.

- B. Any member found to be in violation of the *SAFETY* Constitution may be suspended at the discretion of the Youth Advisor and the Temple Sinai Executive Board.

- C. Any member suspended by *NFTY* or *NFTY-STR* is suspended from *SAFETY* until a parent conference is held.

- D. Any member who violates the *NFTY*, *NFTY-STR*, or *SAFETY Brit Chevre* may be subject to the following consequences:
1. Verbal warning
 2. Written warning
 3. Written letter of apology to the Youth Advisor and the Executive Board
 4. Parent conference
 5. Suspension from *NFTY-STR* and/or *SAFETY* events
 6. Expulsion from *SAFETY* for the duration of the year in which the violation occurred
 7. Additional consequences may be imposed by the Youth Advisor and Temple Sinai Executive Board as needed.

Article VI: *SAFETY* Executive Board

- A. This organization will be governed by a board of Executive Officers.
- B. The *SAFETY* Executive Board will consist of the following:
1. President
 2. Programming Vice President (PVP)
 3. Social Action Vice President (SAVP)
 4. Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP)
 5. Communications Vice President (CVP)
 6. Membership Vice President (MVP)
- C. These officers will be elected for a one-year term beginning and ending during the installation of the new board.
- D. The business of *SAFETY* will be conducted by the Executive Board and Youth Advisor.
1. The *SAFETY* Executive Board and Youth Advisor will schedule all meetings.
- E. The *SAFETY* General Board will consist of the following:
1. Historian
 2. Parliamentarian
 3. Song Leader
 4. Representative(s)
 5. Standing committees appointed by the *SAFETY* Executive Board
- F. The *SAFETY* Executive Board reserves the right to meet in closed session.
- G. The *SAFETY* Executive Board must consult with the Youth Advisor for any meeting to take place. The *SAFETY* Executive Board may meet with a simple majority of itself.

- H. Each officer of the Executive Board, except for the President, will have equal voting rights. Each member of the General Board will have equal voting rights. Each member of *SAFETY* will have equal voting rights.
- I. The deliberation in Executive, General, and *SAFETY* meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. Voting will take place by the Approval Method, wherein voters may cast their approval for all options they favor, not just their most favored option – that is, unless another motion passes to instead use the standard Plurality Method.
- J. All Executive Officers will attend Executive meetings unless prior authorization has been given by the President and Youth Advisor.
- K. If an Executive Officer misses more than 3 Executive, General, or *SAFETY* meetings, they may be considered for removal from their position.
- L. In order to run for President of *SAFETY*, a teen must have served on the Executive Board for at least one (1) year.

Article VII: Duties of the Executive Officers

- A. It will be the duty of the President to do the following:
 - 1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 - 2. To attend all youth group events;
 - 3. To preside over all *SAFETY* meetings;
 - 4. To create and appoint committees when necessary;
 - 5. To remove committee chairs with cause and consent of the majority of the Executive Board;
 - 6. To represent for the execution of the laws of the organization;
 - 7. To guide the *SAFETY* Executive Board in the proper execution of their aims and purposes;
 - 8. To serve as a liaison between Temple Sinai and *SAFETY* and to attend Temple Sinai Board meetings, when necessary;
 - 9. To supervise the Executive Board and to be held accountable for all decisions made by them;
 - 10. To check in regularly with the Youth Advisor; and
 - 11. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- B. It will be the duty of the Programming Vice President (PVP) to do the following:
 - 1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 - 2. To attend all youth group events;
 - 3. To take the place of the President when necessary;
 - 4. To act as an ex-officio member of, advisor of, and supervisor of all committees;
 - 5. To be directly responsible to the President and to assist them in performing their duties;

6. To be directly responsible for planning and executing all *SAFETY* programs and events;
 7. To educate *SAFETY* members on the programs which *NFTY* and *SAFETY* have and to offer materials and information on those programs; and
 8. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- C. It will be the duty of the Social Action Vice President (SAVP) to do the following:
1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 2. To attend all youth group events;
 3. To coordinate social action programming;
 4. To correspond with the regional SAVP;
 5. To publicize social action projects in the region;
 6. To fulfill any other duties deemed necessary by the Executive Board and/or Youth Advisor; and
 7. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- D. It will be the duty of the Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP) to do the following:
1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 2. To attend all youth group events;
 3. To serve as a catalyst for emphasizing and planning creative and innovative Jewish study programs and well-rounded religious programming;
 4. To assist any *SAFETY* members in matters concerning Jewish study and/or religious services;
 5. To be directly responsible for all services conducted for and/or by *SAFETY*; and
 6. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- E. It will be the duty of the Communications Vice President (CVP) to do the following:
1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 2. To attend all youth group events;
 3. To keep a journal of all activities of the Executive Board;
 4. To keep an up-to-date mailing and telephone list of *SAFETY* and its prospective members;
 5. To take minutes at all meetings;
 6. To conduct all correspondence not pertaining to publicity; and
 7. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.

- F. It will be the duty of the Membership Vice President (MVP) to do the following:
 - 1. To serve on the *SAFETY* Executive Board;
 - 2. To attend all youth group events;
 - 3. To be directly responsible to the Communications Vice President and to assist them in performing their duties;
 - 4. To be the liaison between the general membership of *SAFETY* and the Executive Board;
 - 5. To keep an accurate record of attendance at each event and meeting;
 - 6. To encourage prospective members to participate in events and meetings;
 - 7. To develop membership retention and new membership strategies;
 - 8. To inform new or prospective members about *SAFETY* and *NFTY* procedures, rules, events, and vocabulary; and
 - 9. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.

- G. All Executive Officers are responsible for attending the Liz Leadership Training Institute (LLTI) run by *NFTY-STR*. The event is generally held for one weekend during the month of April.

- H. Executive Board members and General Board members are responsible for attending at least one (1) regional or bi-regional kallah/convention unless otherwise given permission not to attend from the Youth Advisor.

- I. Executive Board members are responsible for attending all local *SAFETY* events unless given permission not to attend from the Youth Advisor.

- J. All other responsibilities of the Executive Board not listed in this Constitution will be determined as needed.

Article VIII: Duties of General Board Members

- A. It will be the duty of the Historian to do the following:
 - 1. To serve on the General Board;
 - 2. To create and post a virtual photo/video album of youth group events throughout the year, including *NFTY* and *NFTY-STR* events;
 - 3. To attend all events unless given prior permission not to attend from the Youth Advisor; and
 - 4. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.

- B. It will be the duty of the Parliamentarian to do the following:
 - 1. To serve on the General Board as a voting member;
 - 2. To serve on the Executive Board as a non-voting member;
 - 3. To learn, understand, and advise on Robert's Rules of Order;
 - 4. To attend all youth group events; and

5. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- C. It will be the duty of the Song Leader to do the following:
1. To work with the Religious and Cultural Vice President to learn and prepare music for services, events, and activities;
 2. To play appropriate music at youth group events and teach youth group members songs so everyone can participate;
 3. To attend all events unless given prior permission not to attend from the Youth Advisor; and
 4. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.
- D. It will be the duty of the Representative(s) to do the following:
1. To serve on the General Board;
 2. To assist the Communications Vice President;
 3. To attend all events unless given prior permission not to attend from the Youth Advisor; and
 4. To serve as a role model for all members of *SAFETY* on a local, regional, and national level and to appropriately represent *SAFETY* and Temple Sinai.

Article IX: Amendments

- A. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the *SAFETY* President and Youth Advisor.
- B. Amendments must be read aloud by the Communications Vice President and deliberated upon by the Executive Board at two consecutive *SAFETY* Board meetings and voted on at the second meeting.
- C. An amendment will be considered passed with three-quarters approval by the *SAFETY* membership.
- D. If three-quarters of the *SAFETY* membership is not obtained for the purpose of amendment, a quorum of all Executive Board members plus one-third of the *SAFETY* membership must be obtained for a vote to take place.

Article X: Elections

- A. Elections will take place in the spring, on a date to be determined by the Youth Advisor and outgoing *SAFETY* Executive Board.

- B. Elections will be run by the *SAFETY* President and one other Executive Board member. Voting will take place by anonymous ballot and will be counted in view of the *SAFETY* members.
- C. Officers will be elected in gavel order.
- D. Any *SAFETY* member may run for more than one position but must accept the first position to which they are elected.
- E. The Executive Board-elect will assume their duties from the time of installation. The date of installation will be determined by the Youth Advisor and outgoing Executive Board.
- F. Elections will be held for the entire Executive Board and General Board.
- G. Each candidate will submit an “Intent to Run for *SAFETY* Board Form” and a “*SAFETY* Executive and General Board Candidate Platform Paper” to the Youth Advisor no later than the date established by the Youth Advisor and Executive Board.
- H. Candidates whose “Intent to Run for *SAFETY* Board Form” and “*SAFETY* Executive and General Board Candidate Platform Paper” have been received by the date determined by the Youth Advisor and Executive Board are considered nominated.
 - 1. No second is required.
 - 2. No nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- I. Candidates may not campaign.
- J. Each candidate will be able to speak to the *SAFETY* members at the election, prior to the casting of votes.
- K. Candidates may be asked no more than three (3) questions by *SAFETY* members about qualifications, position, and/or other relevant issues.
- L. The President or Youth Advisor reserves the right to negate questions based on relevancy.
- M. A candidate will be considered elected if they receive the most votes of approval from the present members. In the case of a tie, the President gets one vote, unless they are the candidate; if the President is the candidate running, the second officer in terms of gavel order will cast the determining vote.
- N. Only those members in good standing may vote. A simple majority is necessary for elections to take place.
- O. Eighth graders may not run or vote for the position of *SAFETY* President.

- P. If a member in good standing is not able to attend elections, they may either ask for an absentee ballot to be submitted to the Youth Advisor or President no later than one hour prior to elections, or they may ask for their vote to be delegated by proxy to another present *SAFETY* member and then submitted to the Youth Advisor or President no later than one hour prior to elections.
- Q. If there is an unopposed candidate running, they will be considered elected by a simple majority of the votes cast.
1. In the event an unopposed candidate does not receive a majority vote, the outgoing President, with the approval of the Youth Advisor, will appoint someone to that position.
 2. The President and/or Youth Advisor may also choose to call a special election in which case *Article XII* applies to the elections.
- R. In case of a vacant position, the President and/or Youth Advisor may choose to call a special election in which case *Article XII* applies to the elections. The new candidate must submit an “Intent to Run for *SAFETY* Board Form” and a “*SAFETY* Executive and General Board Candidate Platform Paper” to the Youth Advisor no later than the date established by the Youth Advisor and the Executive Board.

Article XI: Dismissal of Executive Officers

The dismissal of an Executive Officer will take place when a *SAFETY* Executive Board member has significantly violated the *SAFETY* Constitution, shown negligence and lack of responsibility toward their duties, and/or behaved in a disruptive and/or destructive manner. Dismissal from office will follow these procedures:

1. The President (or other Executive Board Member if the receiver is said President) and Youth Advisor will issue a written warning to the officer under consideration for dismissal;
2. The Executive Board may ask for the officer’s resignation; and
3. The Executive Board may, after extensive review, dismiss any officer by three-quarters approval of the Executive Board.

Article XII: Special Elections

Special elections may be called by the President in the case of a vacancy of an Executive Office.

Article XIII: By-Laws

All rules and regulations not covered in the Constitution will fall under the discretion of the Executive Board and will be known as By-Laws.

Created by
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Written on 11 September 2003

Ratified by
Heather Bernheim, Executive Board Member
Harrison Hoffman, Executive Board Member
Laura Hudson, Executive Board Member
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Kathy Stern, Vice President of Youth Education
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All *SAFETY* Members

Updated 8 January 2008

Updated 30 April 2021 by
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SAFETY Board