

Congregation Beth Emeth Federation of Temple Youth Constitution

Preamble

We the members of Beth Emeth Senior Temple Youth (BESTY), a member of the North American Federation of Temple Youth - Pennsylvania Area Region (NFTY-PAR), affiliate with the URJ (Union of Reform Judaism), in recognition of our Jewish heritage and with the intent to unite the young people of Beth Emeth, build richer Jewish lives and friendships with other Jewish youth, participate in programs dealing with good citizenship, social action, and harmonious relationships with others, regardless of color, creed, or sexual orientation, and to have fun, do hereby join together in an effort to uphold these ideals.

Article I - Title

This organization will be known and referred to as Beth Emeth Senior Temple Youth (acronym: BESTY)

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this organization will be:

Section A: To unite Jewish youth in a social atmosphere apart from the classroom

Section B: To prepare the members of the group for responsible Jewish adulthood and for the intelligent and loyal acceptance of responsibilities as mature members of their congregations and communities.

Article III - Affiliation

This organization will be a member of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, will be an active part of it, and will abide by its Constitution, By-laws, and policies in all matters not provided for in this constitution.

Article IV - Membership

Section A: BESTY will consist of four separate groups: Senior BESTY (grades 8-12), Junior BESTY (4-7)

Section B: All Jewish youth grades 4-12 are eligible to join in events specific to their grade.

Section C: All students in religious school, grades 4-12, shall be eligible regardless of age.

Section D: Members of Congregation Beth Emeth will pay lower dues than non-members.

Section E: After attending two events during the BESTY year (the year runs from Sept to June) non-members are encouraged to join BESTY in order to attend future events.

1. Section E does not include members of other URJ Temple youth groups.
2. Members of BESTY will be privileged to lower fees for events than non-members.

3. If a person becomes a BESTY member after paying a non-member rate for an event, the difference will not be refunded.

Section F: Certain events (at the discretion of the Board) will be open to BESTY members only.

Section G: The BESTY Advisor(s) will determine membership dues. Dues will be the same regardless of when joining.

Section H: Only paid members of BESTY who are Jewish high school students in grades 9-12 will be permitted to attend NFTY-PAR regional conventions.

Section I: Scholarships for regional and national events are available only to those Senior BESTY members who are also members of Beth Emeth in good standing. Scholarships are at the discretion of the BESTY Advisor, Rabbi and Director of Operation. Monies may not always be available and amounts may vary from year to year.

Article V - Executive Board

Section A: Officers shall be elected in the following order:

1. President
2. Membership Vice President
3. Social Action Vice President
4. Communications Vice President
5. Religious and Cultural Vice President
6. Fundraising Vice President
7. 8th Grade Representative

Section B: Executive Board members must attend all executive board meetings consisting of two meetings per month.

Section C: The Executive Board meeting will be limited to executive board members only. Issues that need to be presented are welcome.

Section D: Executive Board members are expected to attend all TYG social events, fundraisers, social action projects, and services during their tenure of office. Any absence must be presented to the Advisor 48 hours prior the event in order to be excused. Only two excused absences will be permitted. The third excused absence will be grounds for an official warning. The fourth excused absence will be brought to the executive board for discussion of impeachment.

Section E: All excuses presented to the Youth Advisor after the 48 hour limit will be decided if it's excusable or not, depending on the circumstances.

Section F: Unexcused absences will not be permitted. One violation will be will be grounds for an official warning. The second unexcused absence will be brought to the executive board for discussion of impeachment.

Section G: Executive Board members should actively participate in NFTY/PAR regional events. Executive Board members are also encouraged to attend Summer Leadership Kallah (SLK).

Section H: Executive Board members who attend less than 60% of activities are ineligible for reelection at the discretion of the Youth Advisor.

Article VI - Officers Executive Board

Section A: The first elected officer of BESTY will be the President. It will be the duty of the President:

1. To preside at all Executive Board meetings. He or she will preside at all open board meetings except the annual election where the Advisor will help preside;
2. To be responsible for all work of, and exercise direct supervision over all Executive Board officers;
3. To be responsible for the execution of all laws of the organization as prescribed in the Constitution or as enacted by the Executive board;
4. To be skilled in and knowledgeable about BESTY events and projects;
5. To notify all board members of any meetings;
6. To be the representative of BESTY at regional events, regional board meetings and BESTY events;
7. To keep in contact with and be in the TYG Presidents Network and the NFTY-PAR President;
8. To step in when another board member is unable to fulfill his or her responsibilities;
9. To write agendas for board meetings and to decide on the order of business at all BESTY board meetings;
10. To submit board meeting agenda to the Advisor 24 hours before the meeting;
11. To oversee all BESTY events; To communicate with the Advisor weekly regarding BESTY related topics.
12. To attend as many 6th and 7th grade BESTY events as possible.

Section B: The second elected officer of BESTY will be the Membership Vice President (MVP). It will be the duty of the MVP:

1. Reach out to all members of BESTY and Beth Emeth teens to join and attend events;
2. To organize BESTY programs, along with the president, during religious school hours;
3. To be a representative of BESTY at synagogue events;
4. Help promote URJ Camps throughout Beth Emeth.

Section C: The third officer of BESTY will be the Social Action Vice President (SAVP). It will be the duty of the SAVP:

1. To be in the NFTY-PAR Social Action Network;
2. To ensure that social action programming is a part of many events;
3. To create or select mitzvah projects, regional social action projects (i.e., March of Dimes, SPCA). The SAVP will act as a liaison to any of these outside organizations;
4. To ensure that BESTY recycles all possible materials used at its events;

Section D: The fourth elected officer of BESTY will be the Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP). It will be the duty of the RCVP:

1. To create and write, or delegate others to create and write, all services for all BESTY functions.
2. If others are delegated to create and write services, the RCVP will approve of all services before they take place at BESTY functions;
3. To stay in close contact with the Congregation Beth Emeth Rabbi(s) for guidance and ideas;
4. To stimulate and coordinate inter-cultural programs;
5. To stay in close contact with the NFTY-PAR RCVP;
6. To maintain and regularly update BESTY's service bank, consisting of all services held at NFTY-PAR regional, subregional and TYG events that can be obtained;
7. To write and submit a service for the NFTY/PAR Creative Service Award "Sh'ma Koleinu"
8. To hold a Minimum of 2 Shabbat events for BESTY Throughout the year.

Section E: The fifth elected officer of BESTY will be the Communications Vice President (CVP). It will be the duty of the CVP:

1. To create and organize ways of reaching out to new members;
2. To push events via e-mail and social media;
3. Responsible for creating FaceBook event page, Tweeting @bestythecow, Posting on Instagram @bestythecow, and posting pictures on #

Section F: The sixth officer of BESTY will be the Fundraising Vice President (FVP). It will be the duty of the FVP:

1. To be in charge of all fundraising (coming up with ideas & organizing);
2. To organize at least 3 (three) fundraisers a year;
3. To arrive at fundraisers at least 15 minutes early unless told otherwise by the Advisor;
4. To work with the Treasurer;
5. To fill out a "Fundraising Worksheet", or assign someone to, and return it to the Advisor at the close of a fundraising event;

Section G: The seventh officer of BESTY will be the 8th Grade Representative. It will be duty of the 8th Grade Representative will be:

1. To promote BESTY events to the the 8th grade class.

2. To attend NFTY-PAR's JYK and Hag Mac events.
3. Help the executive board plan and run events.
4. Assist the Social Action Vice President and Fundraising Vice President.
5. Attend as many 4th and 5th grade events as possible to increase outreach for future BESTYites.

Section H: All BESTY board members must accept any other duties assigned by the BESTY Advisor or president.

Section I: All BESTY board members are responsible for keeping updated informational binders. These binders will be passed on from year to year.

Section J: The Executive Board at its first meeting will try to fill any vacant office. A majority vote of the Executive Board must be in attendance. Vacancies can occur by written resignation or impeachment.

Section K: In case of the disability, resignation or impeachment of the President, the MVP will assume the position, followed by the SAVP and proceeding in gavel order. This action is automatic.

Article VII - Impeachment

Impeachment will occur when a BESTY Executive Board member has, without permission of the Advisor and/or the Executive Board, intentionally or unintentionally, violated the BESTY Constitution or Code of Conduct, shown lack of responsibility, or displayed disruptive or destructive behavior. The officer in question will be allowed to defend him or herself at an impeachment hearing before a vote of the Executive Board is taken. Two-thirds of all active board members must be in attendance to hold the impeachment hearing. If two-thirds of all active board members are not in attendance at the aforementioned meeting, then a new impeachment meeting will be scheduled. This meeting will take place no matter how many board members are in attendance. A majority of the members in attendance must vote to impeach in order to dismiss the member from the board.

Article VIII - Elections

Section A: A candidate for election must be a member in good standing of BESTY in the year they are running for office.

Section B: Candidates for President must be members of Congregation Beth Emeth .

Section C: Candidates for President must serve one year on Executive Board prior to running for President unless the Advisor approves special circumstances.

Section D: In order to run for an office, a Letter of Intent must be submitted to the BESTY Advisor at least 4 days prior to the election. No exceptions will be made.

Section E: Each candidate will give a speech that can last a maximum of three minutes, excluding the President which has a maximum of five minutes, followed by a question and answer session.

Section F: Temple youth group Advisor(s) will be responsible for running elections, tabulating ballots, and resolving a tie if necessary.

Section G: Additional board positions will be added and/or taken away if determined necessary by the Advisor and/or Board.

Section H: Candidates will be permitted to “drop down” to another position only once.

Section I: Each present BESTY member will be given one vote.

Article IX – Meetings

Section A: There will be a minimum of one board meeting per month. Additional meetings can and will be scheduled based upon need.

Section B: Board members are expected to attend all meetings:

1. Excused absences, due to special circumstances, will be taken under consideration by the Advisor.
2. Any absence must be presented to the Advisor 24 hours before the event in order to be excused; Refer to Article V Section D for the excused absence policy.

Section C: Regular meetings of the Board shall be scheduled as the third Sunday of every month at 12:15-2:30 PM and are subject to change because of holidays, or the discretion of the Board.

Section D: The president has the power to call a special meeting of the Board at his/her discretion with agreement from the Advisor.

Section E: A majority vote of members in attendance is required in order to pass any motion brought before the Board (except for impeachment).

Section F: The Youth Group Advisor shall have no voting privileges at Board meetings. However, the Advisor may add input or make suggestions to assist the Board members in the decision-making process.

Article X - Code of Conduct

- The drinking, possession and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages, even if the participant is of legal drinking age, is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, no participant may arrive to an event under the influence, even if of legal drinking age.
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- The use, possession and/or distribution of weapons and/or illegal drugs or paraphernalia relating thereto, is strictly prohibited.
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- Gambling in any form or manner is strictly prohibited, unless otherwise specifically approved by the adult leadership.
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- Any inappropriate sexual behavior, harassment, or hazing will not be tolerated.
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- Slander on any form of social media will not be tolerated and will be grounds for punishment by the Advisor and/or clergy.
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- BETH EMETH FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH, at its sole discretion shall provide sufficient supervision by adults at all events. Neither BETH EMETH, nor its employees, may be held responsible for any damages or injuries sustained by persons or property, directly resulting from improper conduct.
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- The cost and/or expense of damages resulting from vandalism of any kind, type, or nature must be paid by the person or persons who caused or participated in such vandalism.
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- No member or members may, of their own accord; (1) extend the time of any sponsored event; or (2) depart from the premises upon which an event is being held, without the knowledge and express permission of an adult supervisor.
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- Any act that is a violation of Federal, State, or Local laws may be considered a violation of the BESTY Code of Conduct.
- Any infraction or violation of the BESTY Code of Conduct may result in removal of a member at the sole discretion of the BESTY advisor(s) at the expense of parent/guardian.

Article XI – Amendments

Section A: Two-thirds of all board members must be in attendance to pass an amendment. Two-thirds of the board members in attendance must vote in the affirmative to pass an amendment. If two-thirds of board members are not in attendance, then the proposed amendment will be voted upon at the next board meeting no matter how many board members are in attendance. Two-thirds of the board members in attendance at that meeting must vote in the affirmative to pass an amendment.