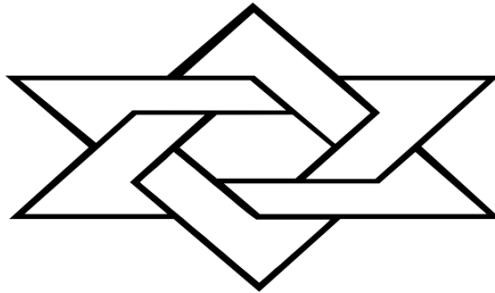


A Parent's Guide to Youth Group



Kochavim - 6-8th

TiBToFTY - 9-12th

*(Temple Beth Torah Federation of Temple
Youth)*

Parent Handbook

A Guide to Youth Group

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About TiBToFTY

To our Teens and Parents:

Welcome to Temple Beth Torah's Youth Groups, Kochavim (for kids in grades 6 – 8) and TiBToFTY (for teens in grades 9 – 12.) Temple Beth Torah's Youth Groups are designed to give our youth a means by which to shape their Jewish identity and experience. Each year we grow and expand our program with help from our teens, our temple, and our community. Kochavim is run by the Youth Director, and TiBToFTY is run by a board of six dedicated teens (with up to 7 board appointed positions) who are responsible for planning their year, with help from the Youth Director.

The goals of our Youth Groups are to create a nurturing, safe, and welcoming community for our teens. Our teens are an important part of our Temple Beth Torah family. Through Kochavim and TiBToFTY the collective voices of our teens are heard loud and clear!

Please explore all that Temple Beth Torah's Youth Department has to offer. We have a program to suit every personality. If you have ideas for additional programming throughout the year, please let us know because we are continually planning.

As you can see from the calendar of events, this year promises to be even more fun than last year. This is an exciting time for our teens, and will be a wonderful year for Kochavim and TiBToFTY!

B'Shalom

Jessica Starkschall
Youth Director

About Your Youth Group Advisor Jessica Starkschall

Jessica grew up in Sugar Land, Texas, a suburb of Houston. Her youth group career began early with Junior Youth Group, where she started attending events. In Senior Youth Group, Jessica held many positions in her NFTY-Affiliated youth group. Jessica also attended the URJ Greene Family Camp, where she most recently served on the Administrative Staff as a Unit Head.

Jessica graduated from the University of Wisconsin in May 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a University issued certificate in Leadership for her accomplishments while in college. Before accepting the position of Youth Director in Wellington, she worked as a Program Assistant at the Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston in Houston, TX. Jessica moved to Palm Beach County in February of 2007, upon accepting a position with the Jewish Teen Initiative, a department of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. Jessica is excited to be a part of the Temple Beth Torah family and bring the youth group experience to Temple Beth Torah Youth.

As part of the Jewish Teen Initiative, Jessica spends half of her week at the Temple, and the other half working with the Friedman Commission for Jewish Education as the Adolescent Education Associate, assisting with the Teen Tzedakah Project and coordinating service-learning opportunities for teens throughout Palm Beach County.

Jessica can be contacted by E-mail at youthdirector@templebethtorah.net or by telephone at Temple Beth Torah at 561-793-2700.

Membership

Kochavim and TiBToFTY registration forms are always available. Religious School students can opt to sign up when they register for Religious School. Once they have decided to become members, registration forms are sent to them directly. You can also find registration forms in the first issue of the Shalom, the Temple's monthly bulletin that is mailed to each family. Forms are also always available in the front office, or the Youth Lounge. Forms will also be available at the Kick-off Programs. Forms must be completely filled out, along with a Code of Conduct and returned with payment to the Youth Director at Temple. Annual dues for Temple Members are \$18 for Kochavim and \$65 for TiBToFTY and \$118 for non-Temple members. When your application is received, you will be added to the youth group mailing list and be eligible to participate in all programs and events. Membership is open to any Jewish teen, regardless of Temple membership.

TiBToFTY Programming

All Kochavim programs are planned solely by the Youth Director and Youth Committee. Under the supervision of our Youth Director, all TiBToFTY programs are planned and implemented by our Youth Group board members. Youth Group programs encompass the following areas of Youth Grouping:

Social Programs

These are programs that take place both in our Temple and at other locations around the area. Some of these activities include movies, the mystery bus ride, dances, and beach trips.

Lounge Programs

These are programs held at Temple and are similar to social programs. These programs have activities planned around a theme. These are both educational and social. Snacks are provided.

Worship Programs

TiBToFTY creates and leads a Friday night Shabbat service each year for the entire congregation. All youth groupers have the opportunity to write and/or read a part in this service.

Social Action Programs

TiBToFTY's main social action project is the Miles-For-Smiles Walk-a-thon for Camp Jenny (see below for description). The 5-mile walk-a-thon is held in February every year. Walkers are asked to collect a minimum donation and in return, each participant receives a t-shirt and a

walker's brunch at the completion of the walk. All proceeds go to Camp Jenny. In 2008, TiBToFTY was able to donate a total of \$10,000 in collected donations.

There are also a variety of Social Action programs held throughout the year in conjunction with Temple activities, Jewish Teen Initiative, Commission for Jewish Education and NFTY-STR regional activities.

Trip Registration Policies

1. Event information is emailed to all teens with an email address on file with the Youth Director or TiBToFTY membership vice president. **Email is the main method of communication.** Emails will include the event type, date, time, sign-up information, and deadlines. Telephone calls may also be made to all members, and flyers may be sent home for events.
2. For all events, participants **MUST** RSVP by the deadline set in the event information. Payment (if required) **MUST** accompany event registration. No exceptions will be made for late registrations.
3. For events that are held away from Temple, there will be **No Refunds** made unless we can replace your child with another member of the youth group. For certain trips, after one bus fills up, we will start a waiting list for a second bus. People on the waiting list will be eliminated from the trip if we do not fill the second bus.
4. Due to the age of our youth groupers, we must have a sufficient number of parent chaperones for each function. We will call upon parents to chaperone during the year. If, for any reason, we are unable to secure enough chaperones, a trip may be canceled.

Guest Policy

Non-youth group members are invited to attend one program at the Temple to meet members and "try out" youth group. If the guest wishes to attend additional events, they must become a paid member of Kochavim or TiBToFTY. All guests **MUST** be approved in advance by the Youth Director. Unauthorized guests will be asked to leave.

Temple Beth Torah Youth Group

Code of Conduct - Brit Chevre

Our primary goal is that Youth Group is a safe, welcoming environment for all members. The following set of guidelines that must be followed at all Kochavim and TiBToFTY activities. They will be strictly enforced. A signed copy of this Code of Conduct is required to be on file with the Youth Director.

RULES and GUIDELINES

I have read the following rules, designed to promote the health and safety of all event participants, and have indicated my unqualified acceptance by my signature and that of my parent/guardian.

1. I will not possess, consume, or distribute alcoholic beverages, other than that served by adult leadership for Jewish sacramental purposes, even if I am of legal drinking age.
2. I will not possess, use, or distribute any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia.
3. I will not smoke, consume, or distribute tobacco products.
4. I will attend and participate fully in the entire event, unless otherwise agreed upon with the Youth Director. I will arrive on time, stay until the end, and remain on the event premises at all times.
5. I will not bring or use any weapons or firearms.
6. I will not commit any illegal act. I understand that vandalism, disturbing the peace, or other inappropriate behavior as determined by the adult leadership will not be tolerated. I understand that I will have to pay for any damage that I cause. I understand that no betting or gambling is allowed, except for fundraisers (i.e. raffle tickets) approved by the adult leadership.
7. I will abide by the event curfew announced by the adult leadership. After each event session, I will go directly to my cabin, hotel room, or host home and remain there until the next session.
8. I understand that no guests are allowed at any event, unless permission is granted in advance by adult leadership, and that any unauthorized guests will be asked to leave immediately. All guests must sign and abide by this code of conduct should they get permission to attend.
9. I will not drive to, during, or from events outside of the temple, unless advance permission for a special situation is requested in writing by my parent/guardian and granted in writing by the Youth Director.

10. I agree to refrain from inappropriate touching, dancing, or suggestive sexual behavior as defined by adult leadership.
11. I agree to abide by any additional rules, these include but are not limited to: demonstrating respect for adults, supervisors and other members, the use of appropriate language, respecting the property of others, avoiding physical and or verbal confrontations. I am representing my family and my temple by my actions and am accountable and responsible for them.

PROCEDURES

Illness

1. The parents are contacted to pick up their child
2. Alternate is called to pick up the child

Injury

1. The parents are called
2. The alternate is called
3. Child is transported to the hospital for treatment if warranted

Drugs, alcohol, or weapons

1. Parents are called to take child home
2. Alternate is called to take child home
3. Rabbi is notified
4. Medical transport if indicated to hospital
5. Proper authorities will be notified if deemed appropriate

Sexual Misconduct- inappropriate touching, dancing, suggestive sexual behavior, or sexual activity

1. Warning to the individual involved for touching dancing or suggestive sexual behavior
2. Removal of the individual from the event
3. Parents are called
4. Alternate is called to pick up the individual
5. Rabbi is notified

General Misconduct – inappropriate language or actions

1. Warning to individual involved
2. Parent is contacted to come get child
3. Alternate is called to come get child
4. Rabbi is notified

**THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ANY INFRACCTIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
MAY INCLUDE:**

1. Parent contacted and person is sent home
2. If indicated, the Rabbi will be informed of the breach of conduct
3. The member will be barred from activities if warranted
4. Restitution if indicated; monetarily or in service to the synagogue
5. Suspension from youth group

Possible suspension from URJ/NFTY sanctioned events (camp, etc.) if indicated

North American Federation of Temple Youth – Southern Tropical Region (NFTY-STR)

A very important part of our programming is our national involvement with NFTY and our regional involvement with NFTY-STR. NFTY is the youth movement of the URJ. It is comprised of over 450 youth groups across the United States and Canada. These youth groups are then divided into geographical regions. As a member of NFTY-STR, the members of TiBToFTY are able to meet other Jewish teens from around the state of Florida, participate in unique learning experiences, and visit different temples within the region. There are five major regional events held throughout the year. They are the following:

Fall Kallah

A weekend Kallah hosted by any youth group in the region. There is a theme for the weekend, following the NFTY-STR programming theme for the year. The hosting Temple plans services, educational programs, and social programs. This event is open to all paid members of TiBToFTY.

Winter Regional

A four-day event held in Orlando. There is a theme for the event's programming. The NFTY-STR regional board plans all services, educational programs, social action activities, and social programs. This is the largest event of the year. All participants stay at the hotel for the duration of the event. NFTY-STR regional board elections are held at this event. This event is open to all paid members of TiBToFTY.

Hatikvah Kallah

A weekend Kallah hosted by any youth group in the region specifically designed for members of the junior youth group. The goal of this event is to give junior youth group members a taste of what the regional youth movement, NFTY-STR has to offer. There is a theme for the weekend, following the NFTY-STR programming theme for the year. The hosting Temple plans services, educational programs, and social programs. This event is open to any 7th or 8th grade paid members of Kocahvim.

Spring Kallah

A weekend Kallah hosted by any youth group in the region. There is a theme for the weekend, following the NFTY-STR programming theme for the year. The hosting Temple plans services, educational programs, and social programs. This event is open to all paid members of TiBToFTY.

LLTI – Liz Leadership Training Institute

A weekend convention hosted by any youth group in the region. This event is designed for leadership training for temple youth group's board members. Participants choose a leadership track (President, social action, songleading, etc.) for the weekend. This event is open to incoming board members and any youth groupers, including 8th graders, (approved by the Youth Director) interested in gaining leadership training and learning more about youth group leadership.

Camp Jenny

CAMP JENNY, located on the campus of URJ Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA, is held annually during Memorial Day weekend. CAMP JENNY is completely funded, directed, and operated by the Youth Groups of NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR, our neighboring region. They have partnered with THE STUDY HALL to enable qualified inner-city youth from Atlanta to attend camp for the weekend. Youth groupers participate as counselors-in-training, counselors, unit heads, and specialists.

Jewish Teen Initiative

TiBToFTY is a member of the Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI), a program through the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. The goal of the JTI is to reach out to unaffiliated Jewish teens in Palm Beach County. They provide information on area youth groups, like TiBToFTY, to these unaffiliated teens. Along with all youth groups in Palm Beach County, TiBToFTY participates in JTI's community wide teen events throughout the year. JTI also offers scholarships for regional conventions, grant money for programs designed to involve Jewish teens in youth group, teen theater, college preparation, and so much more. They provide training opportunities for local advisors and have a teen outreach council with representatives from various youth groups.

Projected Costs for Youth Group Events

Kochavim Programming

Kochavim Annual Dues – Dues are \$18 for Temple Beth Torah Members and \$118 for non-members. Dues contribute to programming materials, snacks, building use, and any other costs associated with running Kochavim.

Social Events – The cost for these events will be no more than \$20. These events are held both inside and outside of Temple. Events take place once a month.

Community Teen Events – The approximate cost for these events is \$15-\$20. There are three of these events throughout the entire year.

TiBToFTY Programming

TiBToFTY Annual Dues – Dues are \$65 for Temple Beth Torah Members and \$118 for non-members. Dues contribute to programming materials, snacks, building use, and any other costs associated with running TiBToFTY.

Social Events – The cost for these events will be no more than \$20. These events are held both inside and outside of Temple. Events take place once a month.

Overnights – These events occur 1-2 times per year. The cost for the event is approximately \$100. The cost includes transportation, 1 night hotel/ host stay, and most meals. Overnights include, but are not limited to trips to Busch Gardens, Orlando Theme parks, or the Florida Keys.

Mystery Bus Ride – This event is held once during the year. The cost for this event is approximately \$50. This is an all day or all night trip. The cost includes transportation, food, and activities.

Community Teen Events – The approximate cost for these events is \$15-\$20. There are three of these events throughout the entire year.

NFTY-STR Regional Events

Fall, Spring, & Hatikvah Kallah, & LLTI – Registration cost for this event is approx. \$125. If the event is outside of Palm Beach County we will share a bus with other youth groups in our county. There is an extra cost for this which is usually no more than \$50. If the event is in Palm Beach County, to save on transportation costs, we will have parents provide transportation for participants.

Winter Regional – Registration cost for this event is approx. \$450. Winter regional is held in Orlando. The registration fee includes room and board, a t-shirt, and all programming. We will share a bus with other youth groups in the county. The bus cost should be no more than \$50.

Camp Jenny – Teens must apply and be accepted to participate in this event. There is no registration fee for this event. Transportation to and from Atlanta is the responsibility of each participant. Participants should plan to buy gifts and toys for their camper.

Fundraising Opportunities

With a calendar full of exciting events, the cost of participating in Kochavim and TiBToFTY can be significant. We offer fundraising programs throughout the year to help our members earn money towards participating in youth group.

To earn money toward events, youth group members can work at Café Bagel, our weekly fundraiser. Each Sunday, youth group members prepare and serve bagels, muffins, waffles, and beverages during religious school hours. Youth groupers can simply show up to work on Sunday mornings. Youth groupers earn money in their individual account based on the amount of hours worked throughout the year. Last year, the average hourly rate that was earned at Cafe Bagel was \$7 an hour. If a youth grouper does not access their money in this school year, it will roll over for next year. If a youth grouper does not use their money by the time the graduate from high school, their money is put into a youth group scholarship fund to allow youth group members in future years to attend youth group events.

Other fundraising activities planned throughout the year help raise money for TiBToFTY's monthly programming and events. These range from car washes to bake sales to Purim baskets. Parent support and involvement are instrumental to the success of our fundraising activities.

Scholarships

If the fundraising opportunities above are insufficient to defray the costs associated with a teen's participation, you may contact the Youth Director concerning financial assistance. The Youth Group has several mechanisms through which to address financial assistance for its members. A scholarship fund has been created to help members pay to participate in events. The Jewish Teen Initiative also offers scholarships to anyone attending their first regional convention. Ask your youth director for more information on JTI's scholarships. For that reason, it would be inappropriate to ask either the Rabbi or the Temple directly before first contacting the Youth Group Director. Only requests made in this manner will be considered.

Information for Parents

Phone Call/Email Policy

The best way to reach me is through e-mail at youthdirector@templebethtorah.net. I will most always have access to my email. I am at the Temple during Religious School on Sundays and Tuesdays. I am also at the Temple during the day on Tuesdays, and finally on Thursday afternoons. I can be reached in person or over the phone (793-2700) during those hours. I will do my best to return all telephone calls and emails within 24 hours.

Deadlines

Adhering to deadlines is imperative. Event information will be sent with ample time for your teen or you to RSVP for the event. Event information is also distributed via the Temple email communication. We are able to plan appropriately only when we accurately know the number of participants in advance. Most importantly, we need to plan for an adequate number of chaperones to be at every event. If your registration is received after the deadline, we cannot guarantee a space will be available.

Donations

If you find yourself making a donation to the Temple, please be sure you make it to the YOUTH GROUP FUND. This fund benefits all of our youth groupers in many different ways.