

ELECTIONS APPLICATION & HANDBOOK

For ECRUSY Regional Executive Board 2018-2019

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, April 9, 2018	Online Candidate Application Due
Friday, April 13, 2018	Supplementary Documents are due to the Regional Office
Wednesday, April 17, 2018	Candidate & Parents conference call meeting
Friday, May 4, 2018	Elections are held at Spring Convention
TBD	Fall Board Weekend in Newark, NJ
TBD	Allocations Meeting in Newark, NJ (President & SA/TO VP Only)



Eastern Canadian Region, USY
Northeast District, USY

Dear Prospective Candidate and Parent,

You are about to make a major decision about how involved you are with ECRUSY next year by deciding whether or not you want to run for Regional Executive Board.

This is not a decision to take lightly and not one you can make alone as it involves your family as well. Before you go any farther along in the decision making process you need to have a very truthful conversation with your family as you'll need their support is crucial to the success of any Regional Officer.

There are quite a few responsibilities that you'll need to take on and while the feelings of accomplishment and pride that come with it are great you need to weigh your options and see if this is really meant for you. You must attend regular meetings and regional and chapter programs and synagogue services. You will be required to spend lots of time connecting with USYers, chapter officers and your Regional General Board counterparts. You will be responsible for creating position specific releases that will not only include tips for success but inspirational pieces. Finally, you are expected to create and run programming at each regional convention in addition to implementing yearlong initiatives. But through all of this you'll have the opportunity to change your life but more importantly the lives of all the teens in ECRUSY!

Every Regional Officer must understand that our ultimate purpose is to bring Jewish teens closer to their Judaism and to strengthen our movement. Officers at all times need to demonstrate this, both at USY programs and outside of those times. Being a *Dugma*, an example, is perhaps one of the most important aspects of being an officer. This means always demonstrating a positive attitude, being on time for meetings and programs, and actively participating in T'fillot, discussion groups and all aspects of programs. Whether you are aware of it or not, you set the tone and those around you will pick up on it. If you talk during programs, other will do the same. Interacting with all kinds of USYers is your job, and bringing them into the core of the ECRUSY world that you know and love is your duty.

While an Officer's academic schoolwork and family obligations always come first, USY has to be your next priority. This means that it has to come before any other extracurricular activity. While the work schedule will have its peaks and valleys, you should expect to spend between 10-15 hours a week working on USY matters during the busy times in the calendar. Now is the perfect time to prepare for how you can make that happen with your already bust and demanding schedule.

PARENTS: We need your help now as your child considers making this commitment to the Region. This responsibility must be a top priority. I urge you to discuss the contents of this Elections Handbook with your child and explore how you and your child (along with your family) will make this commitment work next year. If you feel that your child cannot handle the responsibilities and time commitments of this position, then s/he should not pursue the position. There are plenty of other ways to play an important leadership role in our region. If you have any questions, please contact me.

On that note, being an officer on the Regional Executive Board is one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences. Many prominent people attribute their success to the skills they acquired in USY. Kol HaKavod to you for pursuing this intense leadership opportunity. Remember, win or lose, being a candidate in a USY election is an enriching experience, something I can speak to as someone who ran for REB in USY. B'hatzlacha!

Sincerely,

Jessie Greenspan
Regional Youth Director
ECRUSY Alumna 2003



Dear USY leader,

I'd like to start off by saying mazel tov! The fact that you are even thinking about running is an accomplishment. You are already a USY leader. You have made other people smile, you have thought about ways you could make ECRUSY better, and you have found a home in the Region we love. I am so proud of you for even considering taking the next step to strengthen ECRUSY, and I know that, no matter what, you are going to continue to make a difference in our Region. If you think about it, it was a combination of many magical USY moments that made sure you got to this point. Maybe a future best friend made you laugh at your first event. Maybe you stayed up talking with someone until sunrise at a Spring Convention. Maybe you went to a USY event during a hard time and a friend made you feel better. No matter what, there was a chain of events that helped you become the leader you are today, and invigorated you to take the next step and run for Regional Executive Board. I encourage you to think of the USY moments that have made you into you, because it will help you realize why you are considering running.

Being a USY leader has been the most special and rewarding experience I've ever had. You get to have a lasting impact on the region and on individuals. When I was first elected to REB, someone gave me the most important advice I've ever received. They told me that I have to remember that leaders are, whether we like it or not, "the cool kids". People will mimic your actions, use you as an example, and look up to you. When you're a cool kid, you have two options. You can choose to be the mysterious, well-dressed, Regina George type, or you can choose to be a friend, who emits positive energy and strengthens their community. I hope you choose the latter, it's much more fun. You're going to make so many people smile, I just know it.

One of my favourite quotes comes from Pirkei Avot, it says that "You are not obliged to finish the work, neither are you free to desist from it". When I think of this quote, I always think of the USY leadership experience. The second half of the quote reminds leaders two things. Firstly, that, if you're passionate about something, the only way to make a difference is to step up and take part in the change. By being a leader and aiming to make a difference, you are most certainly not desisting from the work. Secondly, it teaches us that, once you hold a leadership position, you have to continue to be a leader. I'm not going to lie to you, being on Regional Board can be a lot of work. Before making the commitment, really think about if it is something that you will be able to continue to do throughout your year on board, because I don't want you to feel like you're desisting from it. If you really put your heart into it, you're going to make such a difference, and that's the best feeling in the world.

I like to think of this quote backwards, "You are not free to desist from the work, but you are not obliged to finish it." The most important thing is being part of the change, and taking action, but it is also important for leaders to remember that they are not the only link in the chain. Board members are lucky enough to have the entire board supporting them, with so many resources and talents that they are able to use. The Board members are right beside you, but it is also important to remember that, just as change makers came before you, so too will they come after your time. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the politics and business of being a USY leader, but, in the end, we're just teens trying to help other teens have fun and learn about themselves in the process, so don't worry if things don't always go the way you want them to. It is not your job to finish the work of making a change, but it is your job to start, so USYers that come after you can continue your amazing work, and the Region we call home will continue to thrive.

Thank you for already being an amazing leader, for making me and others smile, and for being you! Don't hesitate to reach out to ask questions or talk anything out, that's what I'm here for!

Xoxo,

Molly Pascoe
ECRUSY Regional President, 2017-2018

ECRUSY ELECTION PROCEDURES:

**To elect the 2018-2019 Regional Executive Board
[The following has been compiled based on ECRUSY's Constitution]**

CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS

Each person who desires to be a candidate for a position on the ECRUSY Executive Board must:

- Submit a completed "Why Run?" Questionnaire with essay (Please see *Why Run for Regional Board?*)
- Submit Standards Form Signed. (Please see *Standards Form.*)
- Submit the signatures of approval of a parent/guardian, chapter advisor/youth director, and Rabbi. (Please see *Standards Form.*)
- Submit a signed candidate's statement and declaration of candidacy.
- Submit no more than two-pages of qualifications for the candidate's desired office. (Please see *Qualifications Sheet.*)

ANY FALSE INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATE THE APPLICANT FROM ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR A REGIONAL OFFICE.

QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN

President:

- A member of ECRUSY in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to election.
- An officer of the Regional Executive Board, officer of the Regional General Board, or Chapter President.

Vice Presidents (Executive/Israel Affairs Vice-President, Religion/Education Vice-President, Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President, Membership/Kadima Vice-President, Communications Vice-President):

- A member of ECRUSY in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to election.

CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

1. Candidate applications (listed above) are to be received by the Regional Office by **Monday April 9th, 2018 by 11:59:59pm.** Late or incomplete forms will not be accepted, and the candidate will not be permitted to run for office. Election materials may be received via email/fax. Please send all information to: jgreenspan@uscj.org AND president@ecrusy.org OR via fax at 416-667-1881.. You will receive confirmation once it has been received.
2. Candidates and at least one of their parents must participate in a **MANDATORY Candidate's Conference Call on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 PM via Google Hangout.**
3. The election is scheduled to take place at ECRUSY's Spring Regional Convention in May. All speeches will be given at this time. Candidates for President will give a speech of no more than five minutes; all other candidates' speeches will not exceed three minutes.
4. A candidate may only apply to run for one office. Should the USYer be unsuccessful in the election of their desired office, s/he can drop down to one other position, so long as s/he notifies the President **prior** to his/her first vote.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

President

- Shall preside over all meetings of the Regional Executive Board, Regional General Board and all plenary sessions of Regional conventions.
- Shall have the power to call meetings of the Regional Executive Board and Regional General Board.
- Shall have the power to appoint Regional chairpersons with the approval of the Regional Executive Board and discuss with them the standards they are required to keep prior to their appointment as RGB chairpersons.
- Shall have the power to establish committees with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.
- Shall have the power to disband committees with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.
- Shall serve as an ex-official member of all committees.
- Shall be vested with the executive power of ECRUSY and shall be its accredited representative.
- Shall report on the state of the organization and recommend improvements at the end of his/her term.
- Shall co-ordinate and direct the activities of the executive-appointed Regional chairpersons and be responsible for the communication of RGB functions, activities, and ideas to the membership at large.
- Shall work closely with the Regional Youth Director to ensure that all programs and policies are successful.

Executive/Israeli Affairs Vice-President

- Shall assume the duties and rights of the President in the event of the President's incapacity absence.
- Shall chair the regional awards committee.
- Shall oversee any committee whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with the area of Israel Affairs.
- Shall oversee and co-ordinate all regional activities of Hechalutzim.

Religion/Education Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for the implementation of all aspects of religion and religious education.
- Shall oversee any committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Religion and Education.
- Shall monitor all Shabbat and Festival projects undertaken by the Region.
- Shall see that articles and information on Shabbat and Festival appear in Regional publications.
- Shall oversee and co-ordinate all regional activities of the Abraham Joshua Heschel Honour Society.
- Shall co-ordinate all religious services at Regional conventions.

Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for all aspects of Social Action programming in the region, and shall serve as the overseeing officer of the Tikun Olam programme.
- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Social Action or Tikun Olam.
- Shall co-ordinate all Regional Tikun Olam fundraisers, including a minimum of one fundraising programme at each Regional event. Will collect all chapter and regional Tikun Olam monies.

Membership/Kadima Vice-President

- Shall oversee the membership initiatives of all chapters.
- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Membership and Kadima development.
- Shall be responsible for the development of creative outreach strategies for retaining current membership, as well as reaching new potential membership.

Communications Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for a record of the minutes of all Regional Executive, General Board meetings, and any delegate assembly of ECRUSY.
- Upon approval of a constitutional amendment, the Communications Vice-President shall attach it to this constitution and distribute revised copies.
- Shall be responsible for overseeing the publication of the Regional Yearbook.
- Shall be responsible for the publication of the Regional Tabloid.
- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive to be concerned with the area of communications.

If you would like further explanation regarding any of the positions or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Molly Pascoe via e-mail at president@ecrusy.org. Please save a copy of all completed election forms that are submitted for your personal reference.

What Does Each Regional Executive Member *Really* Do?

Here is a brief “job description” of each Executive office. It is not possible to fully describe the obligations of every executive member on a piece of paper. If you are interested in running, it is **strongly** recommended that you speak to the executive member who currently serves in the position you seek.

President: Molly Pascoe, president@ecrusy.org

The President plays many roles. Most importantly, the President serves as a resource and helping hand to the Regional Executive, RGB and Chapter Executives. He/she is responsible to assist with all regional programming, and oversee the Executive with their individual projects and goals. The President assists the Chapter Presidents with membership incentives, programs, and any conflicts that may arise within their Executives. Additionally, the President works closely with the Regional Youth Director in conjunction with the Executive. The President serves on the International General USY Board. S/he must take part in regular Regional Youth Commission meetings. The President must be the ultimate dugma (example) for the entire region.

Executive/Israel Affairs Vice-President: Jenna Bienstock, iavp@ecrusy.org

The Israel Affairs Executive Vice President has many different roles. Firstly, the I/A VP is responsible for planning Israel themed programs at conventions. However one of the most important roles of the I/A VP is spreading knowledge about Israel. Another large component of the position is working to increase numbers for summer programs and Nativ. He/she must communicate with his/her chapter counterparts and assist with Israel advocacy programming within the chapters. Additionally, the I/A VP fills in as Regional President if the current Regional President is unable to do so.

Religion/Education Vice-President: Eli Rubineau, reledvp@ecrusy.org

The Religion/Education Vice President has two jobs- dealing with both the religious and educational aspects of USY. As the Rel in Rel/Ed, you plan, organize, and coordinate all the religious services at each convention. Also, on the International USY level, it is your job to promote and recruit members to the Abraham Joshua Heschel Society, as well as leading Heschel sessions at conventions. As the Ed in Rel/Ed, it is your job to create fun and exciting limudim for conventions; finding engaging ways to teach about Conservative Judaism. One final aspect- helping those who want to learn how to lead a service or read Torah, to create a pool of qualified people to daven or read at conventions. While this might sound like a lot, at the end of the day, the Rel/Ed VP has the opportunity to change lives.

Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President: Dana Schoenberg, satovp@ecrusy.org

The Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President is responsible for the SA/TO programming on the regional level. He/she must work with his/her RGB, chapter board counterparts, other region SA/TO VP's, and the international SA/TO VP. It is important for the SA/TO VP to be well-informed about current social issues and understand the breakdown of Tikun Olam money distribution. Balancing both Social Action and Tikun Olam programming is essential in the overall success of the SA/TO VP. Kind-heartedness and a fun-loving, considerate character along with a desire to make the world a better place would best describe the kind of person who is fit for the position of SA/TO VP.

Membership/Kadima Vice-President: Keren Gorman, memkadvp@ecrusy.org

The Membership Kadima Vice-President is in charge of membership recruitment in both USY and Kadima, as well as introducing Kadima to the USY age group. Kadima, kids in grades 6-8, is the future of ECRUSY, and the Mem/Kad is responsible for bridging the gap between the Kadima and USY youth groups. He/she works with his/her RGB, with the planning of ice breakers, and membership incentives. He/she works with the Mem/Kad counterparts to plan social programs and membership projects in their chapters.

Communications Vice-President: Noah Michaelson, communicationsvp@ecrusy.org

The Communications Vice President is in charge of advertising regional and international programs. This means maintaining the ECRUSY website, ECRUSY listserv, Facebook, phonings, applications, and flyers, as well as creating regalia. The Comm. VP is responsible for ECRUSY's publications, such as Tabloid, Yearbook, and Slideshow. Internationally, he/she is involved with USY Wired, Lanasi, and the magazines Achshav and Shalhevet He/she serves as a role model to his/her RGB and Chapter counterparts.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION & DECISION WORKSHEET

First Name:		Last Name:	
Street Address:			City:
Province:	Postal Code:		Cell Phone:
E-mail:			Home Phone:
Parent Name:		Parent E-mail:	
Parent Name:		Parent E-mail:	
Rabbi's Name		USY Chapter:	
High School:		Grade:	
Date of Birth:	Age:	Years in USY:	

Why Run For Regional Board?

Don't run just for the sake of running, because if you win and can't handle your position, then the only thing to suffer from that decision will be the region. You are not just affecting yourself, but hundreds of USYers.

And, if you are running because:

1. you want power in USY! (not worth it)
2. you want to be popular or gain friends! (doesn't work, I promise)
3. you want it for your university application! (not good enough)

...THEN DON'T RUN! It's as simple as that. USY is a youth-led organization and
We depend on the Regional Executive Board members.

But, if you are running because:

1. You want to help USY for the good of USY!
2. you have great programs and ideas to implement!
3. you love SATO or Rel/Ed or Israel or Mem/Kad or Communications or Presidenting! (yes, that's now officially a word)
4. you squeal with joy at the sight of hundreds of USYers who won't shut up!

...THEN RUN! (Run? Run where?) Run for board!

Have you thought about...?

On the following page are some questions dealing with your ideas, concerns, attitudes, and commitments. This section is not meant as an evaluation of your candidacy for board – you are allowed to run no matter how you answer. This section is meant to make you think about what it means to be on Regional Board, and to consider the commitments

that come with the job. Please take these questions seriously, as they will all be read. Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. Why do you want to be on Regional Executive Board? (*Limit 3 points.*)
2. How do you feel about working with a larger group of USYers? What, if any, concerns do you have?
3. How do you feel about greater interaction with adults (the Regional Director, the Regional Youth Commission, Youth staff/advisors, parents etc.)?
4. List commitments besides USY that you will want to maintain during your year on board (sports, school activities, etc.): *Just approximate: Commitment, Hours per week, weekends*
5. What commitments on your schedule exist that might conflict with the Shabbat and Hagim aspects of standards? How will you deal with this conflict? (*limit five points*)
6. How do your parents feel about your being on board? Will they support you? Do they have any questions or concerns (...hint hint, ask them!)
7. Please list three (3) initiatives that you plan on perusing during your term in office.

Why Run? - The Short Essay

That's right! You aren't even on board and you've already got to do some serious work. On a separate page that should be attached to the back of your application, please answer the following short-essay question. Please make your answer in Calibri font, size 12 print, double-spaced, and not exceeding one and a half pages in length.

Question:

No matter which position you are running for, your programming has an impact on how successful the region is in attracting Jewish teens to future programs and conventions. How do your hopes and goals for the coming year on Regional Board address the need to make USY appeal to a wider range of youth, and get more Conservative-Movement teens involved in our organization?

STANDARDS FORM

(These standards were created and adopted by the USY International Board.)

Upon a successful election to ECRUSY's Executive Board, the elected member is expected to adhere to the following standards:

1. The Officers of United Synagogue Youth shall observe the Sabbath and Jewish Holidays with regard to the Responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to Travel, and by refraining from all school examinations and public functions thereon. (The Jewish Holidays include Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot and Simhat Torah.)
2. The Officers shall observe the dietary laws where possible in private and at all times in public.
3. The Officers shall participate in some mode of Judaic study for not less than three hours weekly; they shall attend not less than four religious services monthly, three of which must be on the Sabbath.
4. The Officers will foster a safe and inclusive community. USY leaders should serve as the embodiment of USY's Zero Tolerance policy towards bullying, and create a welcoming environment.
5. The Officers are expected to hold themselves and each other to the highest ethical standards. This includes refraining from Lashon Hara (gossip) and treating others with Kavod (respect).
6. The Officers will strive to model healthy Jewish dating choices. These include recognizing the importance of dating within the Jewish community and treating each person with the recognition that they were created Betzelem Elohim (in the image of God).
7. It is expected that the leaders of the organization refrain from the illegal use of drugs and the illegal use of alcohol.
8. The Officers shall participate actively in the affairs of their respective Chapters, and in all of the activities of their respective Regions.
9. The provisions contained herein shall also apply to the remainder of the membership of the International General Board of USY as well as all members of Regional USY Executive Boards.
10. The International Youth Commission, USY President, Director, all Regional Youth Commissions, Presidents, and Directors shall make every effort to assure that these basic standards are adhered to by our USY leaders.

I agree to follow the aforementioned standards. Should I be found in violation of any of these standards, I understand that I will be asked to resign my position, or face impeachment. I agree to contribute in a positive and respectful manner as an Officer of the ECRUSY Executive Board.

Candidate's Name

Candidate's Signature

I support my child in his/her pursuit for the office of _____ . I fully understand and agree to all of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and will assist my child in meeting the expectations stated above. I acknowledge the required time commitment expected of my child throughout the year and will support and encourage my child in meeting their goals and demands.

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

I support _____ in his/her pursuit for the office of _____ , and I feel that he/she is a qualified candidate. I am confident that he/she will fully uphold the standards of the ECRUSY Executive, as an example for Conservative Jewish youth.

Chapter Advisor's/Youth Director's Signature

Rabbi's Signature

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT & DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Expectations of a Regional Board Member:

1. **Mandatory** attendance at **all** regional conventions and as many other regional programs as possible. Regional Executive Board members are also highly encouraged to participate in International programs as well.
2. Must be a member in good standing of your USY chapter (*good standing* defined as having paid chapter, regional and international dues and attending 75% of chapter events).
3. Required attendance at all Regional Executive Board meetings, Regional General Board meetings, unless previously arranged with USY president or Regional Youth Director.
4. Observe ALL Regional Executive Officer standards.
5. Be in contact, by phone or face-to-face visits, with both the regional USY president and the Regional Youth Director at least once EVERY week (to be scheduled after elections).
6. Be in contact with Regional General Board committee chairs at least once a month.
7. Stay in contact with assigned chapters and chapter counterparts throughout the year.
8. Plan ALL programs related to your position for regional conventions/events.
9. Initiate new projects, as well as facilitate the day-to-day responsibilities of your position.

These expectations are some, but not all, of the expectations that a board member is expected to adhere to. Please take note of them, as you will be expected to meet these expectations if elected to office!

I have read the Election Handbook and I fully understand Regional Executive Board, Elections, and the Regional Officers' standards as set by International USY and the ECRUSY Constitution. I have also read and understand the accompanying "letter to candidates" from the Regional Youth Director & Regional President. I understand the commitments I am making, and agree to abide by all of the above. I understand that all of these items will be discussed with my parent/guardian on the candidate and parent call.

I understand that I will miss school and any school-related activities on Shabbat and Jewish holidays and will make sure my parents understand this and agree to it. I have discussed with my parents the commitments I will be making for the coming year, in terms of leadership, time, and commitment to Jewish observance.

I certify that all statements on my candidate application are true, to the best of my knowledge.

I also certify below that I will take this job seriously and fulfill the position to the best of my abilities.

I, _____ **officially declare my candidacy for the position of**
Candidate's Name
_____ **of ECRUSY for the 2017-2018 programming year.**
Desired Position

Date

Candidate's Signature

QUALIFICATIONS SHEET

This form may be used as a guideline for your own Candidate Qualification Form. Feel free to use a different format than provided below, but be sure to include *all* of the requested information. The use of decorative borders, pictures and illustrations is not permitted. Please use a 12-point font in either Times New Roman or Arial font styles. Forms are limited to two (2) sides of one sheet of white letter-sized paper, including personal statement.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

English Name		Hebrew Name	
Office Desired		Email	
Home Phone		Mobile Phone	
Chapter		Current Grade	
Full Mailing Address			
Years in USY			

II. USY ACTIVITIES AND OFFICES HELD

A.	International	
B.	Regional	
C.	Chapter	

III. JEWISH EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

A.	Present studies	
B.	Previous studies	
C.	Number of hrs/week	Previous: Present:

D.	Provisions for next year	
E.	Religious skills	Torah reader/Hebrew speaker

IV. SECULAR EDUCATION AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School		Grade Average
Activities		

V. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, HONOURS, AWARDS, ETC.

VI. PLEASE WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (CAN BE DONE ON A SEPARATE SHEET) (300 words maximum)

The statement and the information on this form will be distributed at regional convention.

All statements made herein are true, to the best of my knowledge

Candidate's Signature	Date
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