



EPIC EXPERIENCES

WHERE JEWISH TEENS THRIVE



bbyo



THE BBYO EXPERIENCE

Teens want a place where they can fit in, develop authentic relationships, and challenge themselves.

Parents want their teens to thrive in a safe, nurturing environment during their formative years.

BBYO
is that place.



WELCOME

FRIENDS ACROSS THE WORLD

BBYO is a network of hundreds of teen-led chapters in 63 countries throughout the world. During the school year, teens gather in their local chapters where they plan and participate in activities like community service projects, sports, weekend retreats, and social events. Over the summer, BBYO offers camp-based programs and travel opportunities—to Israel and more than 18 other countries—where teens can experience new things, gain independence, and build lasting relationships.

COME AS YOU ARE

BBYO welcomes Jewish teens of all backgrounds and practices. Knowing that most young people are still figuring out the way in which religion fits in to their lives, BBYO does not impose any specific practice or belief system. Rather, BBYO introduces ideas about community, values, and relationships, and enables teens to explore what's meaningful to them. Ritual is offered in creative, teen-led moments that are rich in tradition and energized by singing and dancing.

CONFIDENCE AND CHARACTER

While BBYO seeks to be the place where teens will have the best times of their adolescent years, it is also a place where they will build confidence and character. By putting teens in charge, they are asked to take responsibility for their community and their peers—they learn how to set goals, organize activities, and communicate with confidence. Behind the scenes are close to 1,000 caring adults who are part of the BBYO professional and volunteer team, supporting teens along the way.

INTANGIBLE LESSONS NOT TAUGHT IN SCHOOL

We all know teens spend most of their day in school and that their free time is often dominated by schoolwork. What about the development of critical skills adolescents need to be successful as young adults? Getting along with others, listening, being self-sufficient, leading, and communicating effectively are just a few of the skills teens gain from being involved with BBYO.

At the core of every BBYO experience is a leadership approach rooted in experiential democracy, offering teens the opportunity to lead initiatives, advocate for causes they care about, and add value to a worldwide movement of their peers.

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BBYO has been so instrumental at developing both my leadership and social skills. With opportunities to lead in ways I never would have thought possible, BBYO ensures there will be no shortage of young leaders in today's world. The world is in good hands with the incredible people that come out of this Movement.

—Leo N., BBYO Teen, Chicago, IL

BBYO challenges me in a way that high school or my other extracurriculars don't, giving me an opportunity to be in front of the room and take risks. I'm so grateful to have this Movement to make me a better and stronger leader at a young age.

—Ben P., BBYO Teen, Pittsburgh, PA

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EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPE LIVES

Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) are BBYO's membership program. Since their founding in 1924 (AZA) and 1944 (BBG), AZA and BBG form the foundation of an international brotherhood, sisterhood, and siblinghood that has fun together, learns, grows, celebrates, and advocates for causes that matter most to them.

As young leaders, many opportunities exist for BBYO members to collaborate with teens from around the world who share similar interests. The International Leadership Network (ILN) is a group of several hundred teens who work on committees together to advance topics such as mental health and wellness, climate change, antisemitism, LGBTQ+ and more. Teens also have an opportunity to interact with BBYO's vast alumni network, many of whom are leaders in business, politics, philanthropy, and academia, and give their time and expertise to help mentor the next generation of global leaders.



CHAPTER EXPERIENCES

Each BBYO member is part of a chapter made up of teens from their community. Chapters are where teens plan programs geared toward the interests of their members. Every chapter elects its leadership and is guided by adult advisors who work closely with teens to run programs, develop leadership skills, and make their chapters great. AZA and BBG count more than 725 chapters across the world.

REGIONAL EXPERIENCES

Chapters are grouped together into regions covering 40 geographic areas in North America and representing 63 countries across the world. Regions vary in size from a single city to several states, provinces, or countries, and serve to bring broader groups of teens together so that they can exchange ideas, socialize, and work together on cross-community projects. Regions host peer-led weekend retreats—known as regional conventions—multiple times a year, bringing hundreds of teens together in a hotel or camp setting to provide unique opportunities for friendships and connection.



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When I reflect on BBYO and the important role it played as I was growing up, it was such a great opportunity for me to work with people in a different way, have social activities, and stay close to my identity as a Jewish woman, which has mattered to me throughout my life.

—Sheryl Sandberg, Former Chief Operating Officer, Meta Platforms, BBYO Alumna

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MOVEMENT-WIDE EXPERIENCES

There are countless opportunities for BBYO teens to connect with their peers across the International Order. From Global Shabbat, to J-Serve, to numerous summer experiences and travel programs, members have access to epic experiences throughout the world.

BBYO SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

BBYO's members-only summer programs pair the values of AZA and BBG—leadership, service, and siblinghood—with the best of camp—athletics, swimming, electives, and fun in the sun—for one-of-a-kind experiences with an emphasis on growing skills and friendships. Summer leadership experiences for BBYO members include Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC), International Leadership Training Conference (ILTC), and International Kallah in North America, and International Leadership Seminar (ILSI) in Israel.



BBYO PASSPORT TRAVEL PROGRAMS

BBYO's groundbreaking experiential travel initiative offers teens another exciting way to elevate their summer. BBYO Passport travel programs combine elements of active touring, adventure, community service, and meaningful Jewish experiences. Spanning four continents and 19 countries, including a multitude of options in Israel, BBYO Passport offers nearly 30 different travel experiences with a range of program themes for teens in grades 8–12.



BBYO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Taking place annually over President's Day weekend, this monumental event unites more than 5,000 of the Jewish community's top teen leaders, educators, business leaders, celebrities, and philanthropists from around the world. Teens have access to inspiring speakers and influencers, leadership sessions, community service projects, Shabbat celebrations, and peers from around the world. A celebratory concert highlights the weekend, bringing leading music artists to an intimate venue with unimaginable energy.



COMMITMENT TO SAFETY, WELLNESS, AND INCLUSION

Core to its mission and values, BBYO is committed to creating an environment where teens can thrive mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically. BBYO is proud to welcome Jewish teens of all backgrounds to participate in its experiences, with diverse representation in terms of denominational affiliation, gender, race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, including those with a range of intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities.



My kids, my grandkids, and I have all been part of the same organization, and amazingly, we've all shared the same experiences. We've learned how to be better leaders, how to be part of great teams, and most of all, how to make friends that last a lifetime.

—Howard Behar, Former President, Starbucks Coffee, BBYO Alumnus

MEMBERSHIP FOR LIFE

For over a century, BBYO has played a crucial role in cultivating the confidence and character of young members of the worldwide Jewish community. For many of the more than 400,000 alumni, BBYO is the place where they met their closest lifelong friends.

Our storied history has given us the tools and know-how to build a bright future for the next generation of Jewish leaders—and we are proud to invite your teen to be among them.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

BBYO.ORG | 202.857.6633

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