

INCLUSION AND WELLNESS AT BBYO

From chapter-based regional activities to BBYO International Convention to leadership development and travel programs around the world, BBYO creates safe and welcoming spaces where teen —all teens—can be themselves. Inclusion and wellness are paramount to fostering these environments and to building Jewish communities that are open and accessible to everyone. Below are some of the initiatives and services we implement, without which many teens would be unable to access BBYO experiences.

BBYO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

BBYO is committed to creating a mentally, emotionally, and physically safe environment for all teens. We strive to build in our teens the ability to face adversity and developmental challenges and thrive. BBYO welcomes Jewish teens of all backgrounds, denominational affiliation, gender, race, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status, including those with a range of intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities.

1. Team support for mental health and wellness onsite: mental health professionals, nurses, doctors
2. A dedicated Quiet Room for teens with sensory needs or other participants in need of a break
3. LEADS Day tracks as inclusion learning opportunities, including:
 - ▶ Adam Rippon: Olympic medalist and LGBTQ+ advocate
 - ▶ Chris Ulmer: YouTube personality and disability rights advocate
 - ▶ Justin Gallegos: First professional athlete with cerebral palsy signed with Nike
 - ▶ Andrea Davis: Chief Executive Officer of Dallas Art Therapy
4. Other personalized accommodations, including hall passes, customized rooming, accessible seating at events, and assistance transitioning throughout IC

SUMMER EXPERIENCES


1. Team support for mental health and wellness onsite
2. Comprehensive intake process, allowing for personalized training, response, and accommodations. Some examples include:
 - ▶ Personalized medication schedules
 - ▶ Special dietary need accommodations
 - ▶ 1:1 aides and additional staff when needed
3. Mandated LGBTQ+ inclusion policies, set officially in place by teen leaders and staff since 2015
4. Mandatory mental health and inclusion training for all summer staff

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

1. International Leadership Network Inclusion Committee, comprising 40 teens from around the Order and focused on elevating inclusion efforts for programming on every level
2. Professional development for regional staff and advisors
3. 1:1 aides provided for larger immersive events when funding is available
4. Crises response and grief support in the aftermath of traumatic events
5. Participation in Jewish Disability Advocacy Day and Pride events

LEARN MORE

We are always working to improve our inclusion efforts, and welcome support and feedback. To learn more about inclusion at BBYO, please visit bbyo.org/inclusion or contact Drew Fidler, Director of the Center for Adolescent Wellness, at dfidler@bbyo.org.



“INCLUDING OTHERS IS THE FIRST VALUABLE STEP IN GROWING AND STRENGTHENING OUR MOVEMENT. WITHOUT INCLUSION, ALEPHS AND BBGS WOULD NOT FEEL SO CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, TO THEIR CHAPTERS, TO THEIR REGIONS, OR TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER.”

—DAPHNE K., BBG