## Molly Simon Candidate for 29<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Council Sh'licha

We are united together because of our Jewish identity. It is our devotion to Judaism in North Carolina that makes us a strong council. We must continue to connect with each other to foster a stronger sense of Jewish character and create lifelong friendships.

I envision our Council creating a stronger sense of Jewish identity over the next year. I also envision North Carolina Council having the chance to participate in a meaningful and impactful Jewish experience together. We want to look back at our years in BBYO and remember that North Carolina Council was where we were exposed to the most meaningful Jewish experiences of our youth.

Furthermore, we are proud to be Jewish. As strong Jewish teens, we have the opportunity to make a difference through Tikkun Olam, repairing our world. It is up to us to decide how we connect to Judaism religiously, culturally, spiritually, or in some other way that is personable to us.

As a Jewish organization, we will always be united and stand up for what is right. We will fight against anti-Semitism in the world. We remain the future of the Jewish people, and as a Council, it is up to us to shape the future of Judaism in North Carolina.

Let's stand together to confront challenges in our Jewish world. As members of North Carolina Council, let's continue to acknowledge our Jewish heritage, make impacts on our communities, and participate in Tikkun Olam. Let's grow our programming in each of these areas while following North Carolina Council's priorities, interests, and goals.

Let's feel the spark of joy that comes from our inner selves when we are together sharing a Jewish experience. We should implement more creative and different experiences that build meaningful connections to Judaism for every teen in North Carolina Council. This includes religious services, spirited discussions, and celebrations of our culture. For twenty-nine years strong, we have committed ourselves to honor our Jewish customs and traditions.

Let's empower each other to get involved in Speak UP and advocate for Israel by learning about their culture, history, and what their society is like. Let's create a closer bond to Israeli organizations, and make a greater impact on the world. Let's increase our education so we are prepared to advocate for Israel, and influence others regarding Israel, and our Jewish community.

Over the next year, North Carolina Council will discover a strong sense of our Jewish identity, participate in several impactful experiences, live up to the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam by making a difference in our communities, and we, the future leaders of the Jewish people, will stand up for what is right.