

Evie Gouldin Vision Statement

Candidate for 31st VAC S'ganit

My vision for Virginia Council is for every member to be involved in and passionate about BBYO. I envision a tightly knit council of sisterhood and brotherhood, where people feel accepted and free to be themselves. This can all be achieved through engaging and diverse programming. As Council S'ganit I would use programming to make every BBG feel included and accepted, attract new members, and encourage active participation and leadership.

In order to promote inclusivity, we must have programs that utilize all programming folds. I will encourage my counterparts to include various different aspects and folds in every program in order to appeal to different potential interests of members. This is the only way all members will feel represented and included in every VAC event. Inclusivity is such an important part of BBYO, particularly as we (hopefully) come out of quarantine and are able to all be together once again. Another extremely important responsibility of Council S'ganit is planning regionals. By including limmuds and activities that appeal to all different interests and focus on different folds, I will make regionals a fun and inviting event for everyone, whether we are in person or virtual.

Exciting and engaging programming is also essential to gain the interest of prospective members. Programming is the first thing that a new potential member ever experiences about BBYO. Serving as Chapter Morah taught me a lot about how to attract new members and plan programs that are enjoyable for prospects and MITs. I will work with my counterparts to make sure every program is planned well in advance, in order to run smoothly and ensure that it is engaging, interactive, and fun for both existing members and prospects.

Another essential element of BBYO is the leadership and teen involvement. This is what allows the council to thrive and continue to have a solid foundation as each senior class passes on the torch to the younger members. Making programs interactive is an essential part of this. Interactive programming allows each member to participate in the programs, bringing them out of their comfort zone and making them more inclined to participate in other aspects of their chapter, such as chair positions or chapter board. Because of this, I will work with my counterparts to include interactive elements in every program. Additionally, I will encourage them to give the opportunity to plan or assist in planning programs to all members. Planning a program is a great way to wade into the leadership aspect of BBYO and would certainly cause more active participation and desire to become more involved.

Programming truly is the glue that holds our council together and attracts new members to join the community. Making our programming more inclusive, engaging, and interactive is an essential step towards a thriving council and community. We must head in this direction to ensure that VAC is a safe haven and a home for all Jewish teens.