

## **Zoe Epstein's Vision Statement for 31st VAC BBG Mazkirah**

My sister BBGs,

There is no doubt this last year has been tough for chapters and members all around the globe, but we still persevered. Programming, attendance, and spirit for BBYO has become more and more important as the year goes on and will certainly still play a huge role next year. My vision for Virginia Council BBG is to utilize communication, online resources, and each other. Furthermore, I hope that members within chapters throughout the state will have the resources they need to grow and flourish as well as remain excited about the upcoming year, conventions, and summer programs. With VAC BBG being built of strong, passionate, and empowering women, I know that we will be able to achieve this.

Communication has played one of the most important factors this past year due to nearly everything moving electronically. Even if we go back towards in person programming, I believe communicating electronically and having online calls will still remain an important tool to make sure everyone is on the same page. As someone who comes from a smaller chapter, I also understand that not all chapters may have a Maz. However, I will contact whoever the chapter N'siah is and ask who I should contact so everyone can stay involved. If we are fortunate enough to have an in-person convention, I would want to meet each chapter's Maz personally to get a better feel of who I am working with as well as allow them to get to know me better as a person.

Programming and summer programs also looked differently last year, but are nevertheless just as fun. Sharing and hyping up summer programs is something that should come naturally and not feel forced upon. That's why I think it is important for prospects to talk to other teens who have attended these events. I also want to show how accessible certain scholarships can be for both conventions and summer programs. Promotion would last year round and can be incorporated at conventions with summer meet-ups. Wanting people to return to a summer program is just as important as gaining new people. I know that BBGs, including myself, who have attended programs will be able to give an honest opinion that best fits the needs of the person they are talking to.

I also believe that we should work on Virginia, and even Eastern as a whole, becoming more inclusive and educational about current events. Personally, I believe BBYO as an organization already does an amazing job by having task forces, such as the LGBTQ+ task force, but it is up to us as members of Virginia and Eastern to further solidify inclusivity. We can do this by hosting virtual programs open to all Virginia/Eastern members, which will also allow for smaller chapters to have a chance to meet other Jewish teens near them.

This upcoming year will be one of the most important years for VAC BBG council because we will, hopefully, begin returning in person meaning more prospects, cooler programming, and more spirit. With a board full of passionate leaders, I know VAC council will thrive and adapt like it has in the past.