



BBYO in GREAT MIDWEST REGION

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. ***Please contact us to learn more.***

BBYO is a network of hundreds of teen-led chapters in 60 countries throughout the world. For years, BBYO has played a significant role for Great Midwest Region teens in developing leadership and social skills, strengthening their Jewish identity, and forming new friendships with Jewish teens around the world.



BBYO 101

BBYO is the leading pluralistic teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. Over the last century, BBYO has expanded into a dynamic, global organization that offers Jewish teens a safe space to explore their identity through activities such as community service, philanthropy, civic engagement, Israel education, Jewish heritage, and so much more. Since their founding in 1924 and 1944 respectively, the Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and B'nai B'rith Girls (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.

Teens are often drawn to join our Movement because of the social activities, such as dances, sports leagues, and movie screenings, that are hosted in each region year-round. Over the summer, BBYO also 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 new relationships. At BBYO, one of our most important goals is to help our members gain a sense of leadership—which is why teens are in charge! Not only do they take part in the planning of our events, but teens also gain valuable experience in giving back to the community through activities such as advocacy campaigns, fundraisers, and social work for causes they choose. Alongside their peers, teens take the lead on planning the year's calendar, managing chapter boards, and communicating with families, all while forming lifelong connections and a strong Jewish identity.

All Jewish teens in grades 8 through 12 are welcome in BBYO.





WHAT DOES BBYO LOOK LIKE IN GREAT MIDWEST REGION?

Great Midwest Region (GMR) spans across Illinois, primarily in and around the Chicagoland area, including Chicago, Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Northbrook, Skokie, Wilmette, Naperville, Homewood/Flossmoor, and our newest community in Champaign! We have 12 chapters in our region, representing over 500 Jewish teens in the area. By becoming a member of GMR, teens are afforded the opportunity to experience local programming in their communities, regional programming such as dances, community service days, sports events, and weekend-long conventions, and international programming at large scale conferences and BBYO Summer Experiences.

Events are planned by teens, for teens, and programming ranges from fun activities like scavenger hunts and lock-ins, to more educational programming like leadership courses and social action projects. A parent, advisor, or regional staff member is always on hand to ensure safety and health. Through youth-led and staff-supported programs, GMR gives our members opportunities to develop leadership skills and positively affect their communities, the world, and themselves. We constantly strive to provide more Jewish teens with more meaningful Jewish experiences each and every day, so that they may become the future Jewish leaders in their communities and in the Jewish world at large.

FUN FACT

We have strong partnerships with Keshet and the Jewish Community Center Chicago, enabling us to have a range of exciting and inclusive programs for our teens. And our regional mascot is Superman!



CONTACT US

Brett Musick, Regional Director | bmusick@bbyo.org

Alana Ben-Zeev, Regional Director | abenzeev@bbyo.org

Jami Goldberg, Associate Regional Director | jgoldberg@bbyo.org

 [@gmrbbbyo](https://www.instagram.com/gmrbbbyo)

 www.facebook.com/bbyogmr

LEARN MORE AT BBYO.ORG

