

USY SUMMER PROGRAMS STAFF APPLICATION ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

USY Summer Programs are more than just teen tours. They are total experiences in Conservative Jewish living. Our staff is given a tremendous amount of responsibility during the summer, and we are able to hire only the most qualified individuals. Our staff must be exceptional role models of Judaism (including a commitment to Kashrut and Shabbat), committed to working with Jewish teenagers, and must be willing to give 100% of their energy for the good of the program.

In your essay, please describe to us why you wish to be considered for a position with United Synagogue Youth. Your essay should be at least two pages long, typed and should include the following:

1. Your experience in working with teenagers.
2. Your formal and informal teaching experience.
3. Your current pattern of Jewish observance. Please indicate whether you are now Shomer Shabbat and Shomer Kashrut, within the framework of the Conservative Movement's approach.
4. Your personal Jewish education
5. Your experience with organized Jewish groups, including Jewish camping
6. USY Summer Programs are programs sponsored by the Conservative Movement. Do you feel comfortable working within the framework of Conservative Judaism?
7. What you would personally add to a USY summer program(s)?
8. Why you want to serve as a staff member on USY summer programs?
9. Specific goals you have for the program
10. Have you ever been part of a successful team? What was it about the team that made it successful? What was your role on this team and how did it influence the other team members? Who is someone you admired from this team?
11. At the end of the summer, how would you want a USYer on your group to describe you to his or her friends?