

Constitution of the Santa Cruz Organization of Temple Youth (SCOTY)

Adopted November 16, 2004

Preamble

We the members of the SCOTY, in order to secure the existence and perpetuation of a strong and meaningful Reform Jewish youth experience based upon these principles:

- a commitment to God and Torah as a means of personal, emotional, and spiritual fulfillment;
- the unity of the Jewish people;
- the centrality of the State of Israel to the strength and survival of the Jewish people;
- the ethical teaching and obligations of Reform Judaism;
- the obligation of free choice through knowledge, basic to our observance of Jewish tradition and law;
- the obligation to work for social justice and equality for all;
- the encouragement of alternative modes of Jewish experience as a valid and essential means of reaching out to the personal needs and objectives of all Reform Jewish youth;
- the need for chevra (community);
- the obligation to the strength and survival of the Jewish people based on the realistic development of our past and present history;

do hereby ordain and establish this constitution of SCOTY.

Article 1: Name and Affiliation

Section A. This federation shall be known as the Santa Cruz Organization of Temple Youth, to be represented as SCOTY.

Section B. This federation is an affiliate of the North American Federation of Temple Youth–Central West Region, known as NFTY–CWR.

- a.* Let it be noted that NFTY–CWR is an auxiliary of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY).
- b.* Let it also be noted that NFTY is an auxiliary of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).

Section C. This federation is an auxiliary of Temple Beth El/ JCC of Aptos, California.

- a.* The Youth Committee of Temple Beth El shall have advisory power to this federation.

Article 2: Purposes

Section A. To unite the Reform Jewish youth of SCOTY in a youth-run federation to collectively benefit and pursue our common goals by establishing an environment of friendship and a commitment to individuality, awareness, and informed choice.

Section B. To forge individual identity through awareness of our Judaic heritage and beliefs, development of a sociopolitical ideology, encouragement of social action, and declaration of the principals of the Reform Jewish youth movement.

Section C. To serve as a voice of Reform Judaism in NFTY–CWR, URJ, and NFTY, taking our place in the Jewish community and preparing ourselves for current and future responsibilities as adult members of both Jewish and secular society.

Section D. To promote awareness of Reform Judaism and the tenets of Reform Jewish youth throughout Santa Cruz County.

Section E. To reconcile the historic beliefs of Reform Judaism with the beliefs of contemporary Reform Judaism and make the moral and social values of our Judaism functional attributes of our daily lives.

Section F. To guide and support NFTY–CWR and the URJ in the execution of its aims and purposes.

Article 3: Membership

Section A. Membership in any given year in SCOTY is contingent on fulfilling the requirements of that year as established by the Temple Beth El Youth Advisor and the executive board of SCOTY. Those requirements may include but are not limited to:

- a. Payment of membership dues;
- b. Residing in the Santa Cruz County community;
- c. Being Jewish by birth, conversion, or affiliation;
- d. Previous violations of the SCOTY code of conduct may result in denial of membership.

Section B. Dues are decided by the local advisor and board at the last meeting of the previous year and must include regional and national NFTY dues.

Section C. Special circumstance dues may be issued at any time during the year by the Youth Advisor.

Section D. A person's membership may be revoked in the middle of a fiscal year due to extreme misconduct in accordance with the code of conduct that shall be assessed by the Youth Advisor of Temple Beth El and the executive board of SCOTY. There shall be no refund of any part of dues.

Section E. Guests of members may attend SCOTY events only with the permission of the Youth Advisor, who must be notified one week in advance. Guests must accompany a paid member. While at an event, a guest is considered a SCOTY member and therefore must follow the SCOTY rules and bylaws.

Article 4: SCOTY Executive Board

Section A. The SCOTY executive board shall conduct the business of SCOTY.

Section B. The SCOTY executive board shall consist of, ranking in gavel order, President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Communications Vice President, and Fundraising Vice President.

Section C. The general board shall consist of the executive board plus the Historian and a Ninth Grade Representative appointed by the executive board.

Section D. The full voting members of the SCOTY executive board shall be the Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Fundraising Vice President, and the Communications Vice President. The Youth Advisor shall have advisory powers only, and the President shall vote only in case of a tie.

Section E. There shall be no co-candidates or co-board positions.

Article 5: Duties of the SCOTY Executive Board Officers

Section A. It shall be the duty of the President

- a. To call and preside over all SCOTY board meetings;
- b. To guide the SCOTY executive board in the proper execution of its aims and purposes;
- c. To supervise the executive board and take responsibility for all of the decisions made by it;

- d.* To check in regularly with the Youth Advisor;
- e.* To serve on the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El;
- f.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- g.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- h.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth El to others;
- i.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- j.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section B. It shall be the duty of the Programming Vice President

- a.* To take the place of the President when so required;
- b.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- c.* To educate all of the members of SCOTY on the range of programs NFTY and SCOTY have to offer and be a resource for materials and information on those programs;
- d.* To oversee the planning and implementation of all SCOTY events;
- e.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- f.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- g.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth El to others;
- h.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- i.* To be an active member on the Youth Committee and to attend all meetings of the Committee;
- j.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section C. It shall be the duty of the Social Action Vice President

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- b.* To keep all of the members of SCOTY informed on social action issues and the NFTY–CWR social action theme;
- c.* To oversee the planning and implementation of social action type programming;
- d.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- e.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- f.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth El to others;
- g.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- h.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section D. It shall be the duty of the Religious and Cultural Vice President

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- b.* To keep all members of SCOTY informed on various religious and cultural issues and the NFTY–CWR study theme;
- c.* To oversee the planning and implementation of all youth services;
- d.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- e.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;

- f.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth EI to others;
- g.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- h.* To provide a midrash for every board meeting;
- i.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section E. It shall be the duty of the Membership Vice President

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- b.* To plan mixers for events;
- c.* To divide up the phone list;
- d.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- e.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- f.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth EI to others;
- g.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- h.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section F. It shall be the duty of the Communications Vice President

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- b.* To take all of the minutes at the SCOTY meetings and publish them in a timely manner;
- c.* To develop and implement a phone and e-mail chain;
- d.* To submit a SCOTY article to Temple Beth EI's newsletter, The Shofar, every month;
- e.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- f.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- g.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local, district, sub-regional, and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth EI to others;
- h.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- i.* To make and disseminate flyers two weeks prior to each event;
- j.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Section G. It shall be the duty of the Fundraising Vice President

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY executive board;
- b.* To oversee all fundraisers needed to raise money for this federation;
- c.* To coordinate volunteers for and work with adult leadership to run the annual Purim carnival;
- d.* To collect dues and make sure the NFTY–CWR dues are paid on time;
- e.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- f.* To attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- g.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth EI to others;
- h.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities;
- i.* To make phone calls to SCOTY members regarding events one week prior to each event, unless another time frame is specified.

Article 6: Duties of the SCOTY General Board Officers

Section A. It shall be the duty of the Historian

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY general board;
- b.* To photographically record all events and create a SCOTY scrapbook;
- c.* The Historian is encouraged to attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- d.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- e.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth El to others;
- f.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities.

Section B. It shall be the duties of the Ninth Grade Representative

- a.* To serve on the SCOTY general board;
- b.* To help the executive board fulfill any of its responsibilities;
- c.* To attract new members into the group for the following year;
- d.* The Ninth Grade Representative is encouraged to attend NFTY–CWR CMC in the fall;
- e.* To attend all SCOTY-sponsored events;
- f.* To serve as a role model for all members of SCOTY on a local and regional level and appropriately represent SCOTY and Temple Beth El to others;
- g.* To take on any additional duties that may be necessary to fulfill any of the above responsibilities.

Article 7: Adult Youth Advisor

Section A. It shall be the duty of the adult who serves as the SCOTY Youth Advisor

- a.* To serve in an advisory capacity to both the executive and general boards;
- b.* To have a speaking spot on both the executive and general boards;
- c.* To work with any of the vice presidents as needed according to the roles established by that office;
- d.* To serve on the Youth Committee;
- e.* To advise SCOTY officers and members;
- f.* To serve as adult staff at SCOTY events;
- g.* To be responsible for any other duties necessary for the successful running of SCOTY.

Section B. At least one member of SCOTY must be included in the hiring of a new Youth Advisor.

Article 8: Board Meetings, Resolutions, and Amendments

Section A. The business of SCOTY shall be conducted in at least one meeting per month of the executive and general board.

Section B. The SCOTY President shall call and preside over all meetings. Should the President be unable or unwilling to call a meeting, the next highest gavel officer of the executive board will call and preside over the meeting.

Section C. Any SCOTY member in attendance at any board meeting shall have the right to speak, provided the member has obtained the floor in an appropriate manner from the presiding officer.

Section D. The following rules apply to all amendments and resolutions:

- a. Resolutions or amendments intended to be presented in any session must be sent to the SCOTY President one week prior to that session.
- b. Resolutions or amendments may be introduced at any session, but a 2/3 vote of the executive board may quash the resolution or amendment.
- c. Only executive board members may vote.

Section E. The President may call special meetings.

Section F. The order of business at any SCOTY board meeting shall be determined by the SCOTY President, except where this constitution mandates otherwise.

Section G. The rules of order used in all SCOTY meetings shall be in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules.

Section H. Only executive board members may vote at regional and local board meetings. Voting will take place in reverse gavel order. At regional board meetings, voting is assigned in gavel order, and if too few executive board members are present, then the general board members may vote in their stead; if there are too few general board members, then the two highest-ranking members of the executive board present will determine who from the general membership may vote.

Article 9: Elections and Appointment of Officers

Section A. Election of SCOTY officers shall occur in the spring. Votes shall be counted in seclusion by the SCOTY President and the Youth Advisor. The SCOTY President may not count votes for any race in which he or she is running. Elections will be presided over by the seated SCOTY President.

Section B. All candidates must submit a letter of intent two weeks before elections and fulfill any other requirements set forth by the SCOTY President or the Youth Director. All candidates shall have the opportunity to speak before the youth group during the election process.

Section C. Officers shall be elected in gavel order: President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Communications Vice President, and Fundraising Vice President.

Section D. If a position is vacant after an election, the presiding board will make an appointment to that position. Appointments must be voted on and approved by 2/3 of the SCOTY elected and presiding board.

Section E. The term of officers shall be July 1 to June 30.

Section F. Any member of the junior youth group, Beth El Temple Youth (BETY), may run for general board offices of this federation in the spring election of their eighth grade year.

Section G. If more than one person runs for any given position, any candidate that is not elected and not no-voted for the position may drop down to any position lower on the gavel order. They may drop down only once.

Section H. Only paid-up SCOTY members may vote.

Article 10: Resignation and Dismissal of Officers

Section A. Any SCOTY officer, either elected or appointed, may resign from his or her position by written notification to the SCOTY President. The SCOTY President along with 2/3 of the SCOTY executive board shall appoint an interim officer immediately. Resignation is immediate and binding.

Section B. The dismissal procedure outlined below shall take place when a SCOTY officer meets any of these conditions:

- a. Extreme violation of the constitution of this federation;
- b. Extreme violation of the NFTY-CWR Code of Conduct;

- c. Showing a profound and continued lack of responsibility and leadership;
- d. Acting in a disruptive or destructive manner at SCOTY- or NFTY-sponsored events;
- e. Not showing up for 2 regularly scheduled SCOTY board meetings or 4 events. This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Youth Advisor and the executive board if the member has sent a letter of appeal to the Youth Advisor explaining why he or she may be unable to attend the required number of meeting.

Section C. The dismissal procedures shall be as follows:

- a. The Youth Advisor shall immediately suspend an officer when deemed necessary. Either the Youth Advisor or the President shall immediately notify all other executive board members of the suspension. At the next executive board meeting, the board shall hear the cases of both the President and the suspended officer and then vote on the dismissal. Dismissal requires a 2/3 vote by the executive board.
- b. Any executive board member may, if he or she believes the conditions outlined in Section B are met, file impeachment charges with the President to begin dismissal procedures against an elected executive board member. By written notification signed by at least three additional board members, a board member shall be considered suspended. At the next executive board meeting, the dismissal shall be evaluated in the same manner as if the Youth Director initiated the dismissal.
- c. Should the executive board uphold a dismissal of an elected officer, regardless of the means of initiating it, the dismissal procedure may be appealed to the Youth Committee, if the removed officer desires.

Article 11: Enabling Causes

Section A. Upon its approval by the SCOTY executive board, general board, and membership and by the Youth Committee and board of directors of Temple Beth El, this constitution shall take effect as the constitution of the Santa Cruz Organization of Temple Youth.

Section B. Any policy, circumstance, or procedure not provided for by this constitution shall be left to the discretion of the full-voting members of the SCOTY executive board and the Youth Advisor.

Section C. At any time, this constitution may be replaced with a new constitution by a 2/3 vote of the executive board, as long as the conditions outlined in Section A are met.

Section D. All voting in SCOTY will be decided by a 50% +1 majority vote, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Section E. It shall be the duty of one of the executive board officers to defend this constitution and be able to represent it at the board meetings at all times. That position shall be decided upon by the executive board.