



DRTY 5786

Davis Reform Temple Youth Group Leadership Council Handbook 2025-26 (5786)

as of May 5, 2025; subject to revision

Congregation Bet Haverim
1715 Anderson Rd; Davis, CA 95616

Introduction:

Davis Reform Temple Youth (DRTY) is a movement to support the Jewish teen community of the greater Davis region. DRTY is teen-led by elected members and supported by our Teen Engagement Coordinator as well as the Director of Education & Youth. DRTY offers monthly social events, educational programs, and opportunities for tikkun olam (social action, repairing the world). The DRTY Leadership Council meets monthly to plan events, strengthen outreach, and build community. DRTY provides an opportunity for our teens to deepen their Jewish identity, build a Jewish community, work in collaboration, make a difference in our community, and develop leadership skills. The guiding pillars of DRTY include Judaism, leadership, community, and fun.

In accordance with the DRTY Leadership Council discussion and policy, it has been decided that anyone who has paid for and attended one DRTY event during the current year is eligible to participate in the voting of Leadership Council members.

General Requirements for DRTY Leadership Council Members:

- a. Anyone who has attended a minimum of two or more events in the current year is eligible to run for a position on the DRTY Leadership Council for the coming year. This requirement is not applicable for incoming eighth grade members.
- b. Any teen who has participated in a leadership position for at least one year and is entering tenth grade or older is eligible to serve as President of the Leadership Council. This position may be shared by two teens and will work with the Teen Engagement Coordinator to prepare for the monthly meetings. The president(s) may work in collaboration with the Teen Engagement Coordinator and Director of Education concerning important timebound decisions and providing support to other Leadership Council members.
- c. Leadership Council Members are expected to be registered in DRTY and in good financial standing.
- d. Leadership Council Members are expected to attend the Retreat in August. This event is an invaluable opportunity for team building, leadership development, and event planning.
- e. Leadership Council Members are expected to attend at least 80% of the monthly meetings, to be prompt in arrival, and to come prepared with a calendar, writing utensils, etc. We recognize that our teen leaders are busy with a variety of schedule commitments. Leadership Council Meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons at noon, following Religious School. These meetings will be held in either Teen Space or the South Classroom and generally last for one and a half hours. If a Leadership Council Member is unable to attend a meeting, please notify the Teen Engagement Coordinator at least one day in advance.
- f. Leadership Council Members are expected to attend all events if possible, with a minimum attendance of five events. All DRTY members are expected to arrive on time for events and to stay for the entirety of the event. For safety reasons, please notify the Teen Engagement Coordinator if you need to arrive late or leave early.

- g. Leadership Council Members will bring ideas for monthly events as well as actively participating in outreach bringing other Jewish teens to participate in these events. During the monthly meetings, the Teen Engagement Coordinator will help the teens to create a task list with the necessary designated responsibilities for the upcoming event. Leadership Council Members will be expected to actively participate by taking responsibility for a variety of tasks to ensure that the monthly events are engaging and meaningful. Support and resources are always available from the Teen Engagement Coordinator, Educator, and Rabbi with any leadership tasks.
- h. Leadership Council Members are encouraged to actively recruit and welcome Jewish teens to DRTY events. Building community and making all teens feel comfortable is an essential part of our responsibility.
- i. Leadership Council Members are expected to respond in a prompt fashion to communications from the Teen Engagement Coordinator and fellow DRTY Leaders.
- j. It is expected that all Leadership Council Members will help with preparations for events as well as cleaning up the Teen Space or other CBH spaces used during events. In general, DRTY Leadership Council Members should plan on arriving at least 15-30 minutes before each event and remain at least 15 minutes following each event.
- k. All DRTY members are also encouraged to participate in NFTY events, the national youth group movement affiliated with Reform Judaism.

Communication Guidelines:

Respectful, effective, and meaningful communication is an essential element and ongoing process of DRTY Leadership Council Meetings. To support our communication, we have the following guidelines.

- a. Everyone is expected to actively participate in Leadership Council Meetings, to share ideas, to contribute meaningful questions, and to respond in a respectful manner to others' ideas.
- b. Listen carefully and attentively to other people's ideas before commenting or expressing concern. If you do have a contradictory thought, please ensure that you are addressing ideas not people, and be polite and appropriate in your comments.
- c. Ask questions at appropriate times. If there is a designated time for questions, ask then. If not, wait until the speaker is finished with the current agenda item.
- d. Respect confidentiality. Although it will be rare for confidential issues to be discussed, there may be times that privacy is required.

- e. Use constructive criticism only and work with your colleagues to find solutions and make improvements. Always work to remember that everyone is doing their best and working to make DRTY the best that it can be.
- f. Unless you need your phone for note taking or accessing your calendar, please put it away during meetings. It is inappropriate to be texting or using social media during meetings.
- g. Information about DRTY events and meetings will be shared through text messages, emails, and social media. Please be attentive to all communications and respond in a timely manner.
- h. Please share information about DRTY events and your responsibilities with your parents so it can be added to your family calendar and they can support your success.

Calendar:

During the August Leadership Council Retreat, we will schedule events for the fall months. Events for the remainder of the year will be scheduled at the November or December meeting. The Leadership Council will choose social outings and activities agreed upon by the majority of the council with feedback from DRTY members as well as past events. Additional information about events may need to be gathered before all details can be finalized. The DRTY calendar will coincide with the Congregation Bet Haverim calendar and may not conflict with other CBH teen programs including Keshet, Confirmation, Teen Space Time, or Madrichim responsibilities. All events on the CBH campus will require confirmation of space availability. DRTY events will be included in the CBH Teen Calendar as well as the general CBH calendar. Additional publicity will be done through social media and networking by our Communications Officers.

Monthly Events:

The goal of DRTY events is to create social opportunities for our Jewish teens to connect, build community, and remain involved with Congregation Bet Haverim. DRTY events take place on a monthly basis, include a variety of activities, and are led by our Leadership Council Members. At least one chaperone is present at all events. Parental support is often required, and greatly appreciated, with transportation to events outside of the Davis area. DRTY events are publicized on a regular basis and online registration is required for each event. In the past DRTY events have included bowling, attending a Sacramento Rivercats game, Chanukah celebration, a Shabbat dinner, bowling, pool party, hiking, and a casino night.

NFTY Events:

NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, is the youth movement affiliated with Reform Judaism. DRTY members are encouraged to attend NFTY regional events, held several times throughout the school year. Leadership training and networking with Jewish teens from the Northern California region are wonderful benefits of participation in NFTY events. These events generally take place from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning at a variety of sites. Bus transportation may be available

(dependent on the number of CBH participants) with a bus stop site at Congregation Bet Haverim. If bus transportation is not provided, it is the responsibility of parents to provide transportation.

Leadership Council Elections:

DRTY Leadership Council Members are selected through an election process in June of each year. Potential members are required to complete an application indicating their interest as well as information about their commitment to DRTY. A signature indicating parental permission is also required.

During the elections, all teens interested in serving on Leadership Council will present a brief speech introducing themselves and sharing information about their skills or potential ideas for participating in a leadership position with DRTY for the coming year.

Parental Support:

We are delighted to support our teens in their leadership of DRTY and to watch their growth throughout the year. Parental support in the following ways is greatly appreciated:

- a. Please add all DRTY events to your family calendar as they are scheduled. Please share this calendar with your teen, especially when they are asked to bring their calendar to Leadership Council Meetings.
- b. RSVP to all events through our online process at least one week in advance.
- c. Volunteer to drive for events. Ideally, we will have a variety of parents sharing this responsibility throughout the year. Your support allows us to transport our teens to a wider variety of events throughout the greater Sacramento and Northern California region.
- d. Please drop off and pick up your teen on time. If a problem arises and you may be late, be in direct communication with the Teen Engagement Coordinator.
- e. When possible, be considerate of the DRTY and Teen Calendar when scheduling other events.
- f. When concerns or questions arise, encourage your teen to engage in direct communication to try to resolve the matter. If the conflict cannot be resolved, please communicate directly with the Teen Engagement Coordinator or Director of Education.
- g. Encourage your teen to actively participate in DRTY and other Teen Programs and to recruit other teens to join them.



DRTY Leadership Council Application

Congratulations on your interest in serving Congregation Bet Haverim and the Davis Reform Temple Youth Group as members of our 2025-26 Leadership Council! We appreciate your dedication, your willingness to take on these responsibilities, and your enthusiasm for keeping DRTY strong.

In order to complete your application, please carefully review the Handbook and submit the following information. **All applications are due on Monday, May 26th and should be sent as digital files to the Teen Engagement Coordinator at teens@bethaverim.org.**

DRTY Elections will take place on Sunday, June 1st; more information will soon be available.

Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Submit a well-developed candidate statement, this may be in either a written or video format. If this statement is in a video format it must be approximately 2 - 3 minutes in length. If the statement is written it should be approximately 250-300 words in length. This statement should encompass the following: **Why are you interested in serving on the Leadership Council? What skills and experiences and ideas can you bring to strengthen and support DRTY?**

Please be prepared to share your candidate speech, no more than two minutes in length, at the June event. Your presentation will help to introduce you to other teens and share your qualifications and interests in serving in this leadership position.

I have carefully reviewed the DRTY Leadership Council Handbook, understand the expectations, and agree to uphold these responsibilities if I serve on the Council.

Teen Signature _____ Date _____

We have carefully reviewed the DRTY Leadership Council Handbook, understand the expectations, and agree to support our child in upholding these responsibilities if they serve on the Council.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____