



WHERE YOUNG  
LIVES TAKE SHAPE

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*"BBYO builds leadership skills, inspires passion for social justice, and promotes creativity and curiosity. Selective universities seek to develop diverse student leadership communities, and a BBYO background is great training to thrive in campus life."*

Larry Moneta  
Duke University, Vice President of Student Affairs

Dear Admissions Officer,

As the Executive Director of BBYO, Inc., the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, it is my pleasure to tell you about the organization that many of your applicants may reference.

With 30,000 involved teens in North America, Europe and Israel, and 85+ years of experience, BBYO is known as the largest and most effective provider of identity-building and leadership development programs for Jewish teens. Among BBYO's 250,000 living alumni are prominent figures in business, politics, academia, the arts and Jewish communal life.

BBYO offers unique opportunities for teens to connect with one another, serve their communities, and travel the world, providing each participant with a perspective which adds value and meaning to life and a shared commitment to strengthening the Jewish future.

When you receive an application for a teen who was involved in BBYO, it means:

- **S/he cares about the world and strives to make it a better place.** Community service and social advocacy are highlights of the BBYO experience and have been enhanced this past year with the inclusion of The PANIM Institute to the BBYO portfolio. BBYO teens raise money to support social causes, such as fighting hunger and poverty in their communities. They rally against genocide in Darfur, work to support and raise awareness for Haiti disaster relief, advocate for a nuclear-free Iran, and lobby congress in support of the State of Israel. They seek travel opportunities to explore and understand cultures beyond their own. Mike Seidman, a BBYO alum from Wayne, New Jersey, and a junior at Emory University, brought Healing Spaces, a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization that seeks to bring joy to children with cancer and other serious illnesses by creating a unique healing environment in their home, to the Atlanta community.
- **S/he knows how to lead.** BBYO programs are teen-led, whether those programs reach dozens or hundreds. BBYO teens have planned and executed community concerts, weekend conventions, religious services, international summer programs and community service projects overseas. Jennifer Ahdoot, a BBYO alumna from Rockville,

Maryland, and a junior at San Diego State University, is president of the Jewish Student Union at SDSU, representing over 2,500 Jewish students on campus.

- **S/he knows how to build community.** On BBYO's most local level, the chapter level, BBYO member teens in AZA (Aleph Zadik Aleph) and BBG (B'nai B'rith Girls) recruit new members and plan meaningful identity-building programs such as "Mind, Body, Attitude" programs for young women about self-esteem and healthy living, and programs for boys about sportsmanship and team-building. In chapter meetings, teens learn grassroots planning and networking as well as how to run effective meetings using a parliamentary procedure. Max Heller, a BBYO alum from Potomac, Maryland, and a sophomore at the University of Michigan, is vice president of TAMID Israel Investment Group, a program that connects American business-minded students with the Israeli economic landscape through education, investment experience, and professional opportunities.

BBYO provides teens with skills that do not end with high school. When they graduate and pack their things for college, they also bring these skills in community building and leadership, as well as their passion for changing the world for the better.

Please consider the significance of BBYO participation as you evaluate your candidates. Any applicant who has participated in BBYO will arrive on campus with values that will reflect well on your institution. Should you have any questions about BBYO or about a specific applicant, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-857-6580 or [mgrossman@bbyo.org](mailto:mgrossman@bbyo.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew Grossman  
Executive Director  
BBYO, Inc.

*"Top colleges seek well-rounded students who demonstrate the potential to succeed academically and contribute meaningfully to the community. Active participation in organizations like BBYO is valuable in building character and leadership skills in young people. It often makes a difference in the life of a teenager and distinguishes them as focused, goal-oriented and high-achieving."*

*Mark Yudof, Chancellor, The University of Texas*