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October 2026

Dear Admissions Officer,

When students arrive on your campus, they inherit a community they did not build. They are asked to become contributors to it, with the hope that they will shape campus life in ways that reflect your institution's values and traditions.

For over a century, BBYO has asked teens to do just that. As the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, with thousands of members across more than 60 countries, BBYO welcomes young people into communities built by generations before them. It then gives them a responsibility: to carry those communities forward, to leave them better than they found them, and to build the foundation for what comes next.

In more than 600 local BBYO chapters, teens are trusted with real opportunities to lead, serve, and design experiences for themselves and their peers. As a result, BBYO alumni arrive on college campuses ready to contribute from day one. They are accustomed to building relationships across differences and taking initiative when they see a need. Rather than asking only what a community can offer them, they're guided by a deeper question: *How can I leave this place stronger than I found it?*

In divisive times, campuses especially need values-driven leaders who bridge divides, serve others, and invest in the institutions to which they belong. BBYO alumni bring both that commitment and the skills to act on it. Through BBYO, teens can travel the world, explore other cultures, take part in service-learning, and lead civic efforts like voter registration drives, all while exploring what it means to be Jewish in a complex world. And because BBYO is governed by democratically elected teen leaders, members learn early how to earn their peers' trust and inspire action in others.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about BBYO and the young people our organization prepares to lead. While I cannot speak to the qualifications of every individual applicant, I can say with confidence that BBYO members care deeply about the people around them and consistently seek opportunities to give back to their communities. Should you have any questions about BBYO or a specific applicant, please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-857-6580 or mgrossman@bbyo.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew Grossman
Chief Executive Officer