



Greater Jersey Hudson River Region (GJHRR) | Spirit Con Fall 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

IMPORTANT DATES + REGISTRATION

- SpiritCon 2023, takes place **Friday, December 15th through Sunday, December 17th**. Programming will begin Friday evening, continue through Saturday (Shabbat) and conclude on Sunday. Included in the convention is security, meals, transportation, and standard rooming (four participants per room).
- **Important dates to know:**
 - **Monday, November 7:** Registration opens!
 - **Flash Sale \$400 🔥:** Register by Wednesday, October 18th to get the best deal!
 - **Thursday, October 19th:** Registration continues!
 - **Standard Pricing \$436:** [Register here!](#) Standard Pricing includes all convention costs and standard rooming (four participants per room).
 - **Wednesday, November 15:** Registration closes!!
- **Are there scholarships?**
 - Need-based scholarships are available.
 - **Wednesday, November 1st:** Scholarship applicants are encouraged to apply during the flash sale. All applications are due by EOD (end of day) on Wednesday, November 1st. [Apply for scholarship here!](#) Scholarship allocations will be communicated on a rolling basis.
- **What is the cancellation/refund policy?** The deadline to cancel with a full program refund (minus a \$36 administrative fee) is the final registration deadline, Wednesday November 15th. Until that date, full refunds will be granted for cancellations for any reason via email ([gjhr@bbyo.org](mailto:gjhrr@bbyo.org)). After the registration deadline, we've already confirmed final counts with our vendors, and no refunds will be allocated, including "no shows." Thank you for understanding in advance.
- **Are there a limited number of convention spots?** Yes, we have a specific room limit with the hotel and we hope to be able to accommodate everyone who is interested.
- **What are the precautions BBYO is taking to protect participants from COVID-19?**
 - All convention participants, staff, volunteers and speakers are encouraged to have the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Masks are NOT required throughout the weekend and can be worn if an individual prefers.
 - Covid-19 testing is not required to attend this event, however we ask that if you are feeling any cold or flu-like symptoms, that you remain home.



- **Why does a convention cost money?** Great question! The convention fee helps cover hotel meeting and overnight rooms, five meals and two snacks (Friday and Saturday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch), convention supplies (programming materials, apparel, software purchased for convention, etc), guest speakers and workshop programming, staff, songleaders, etc.
 - Extensive scholarship is available, and we strongly encourage you to apply. There is an opportunity to list why you are applying for a scholarship (COVID-related, teen paying for convention, family expenses, etc.) that may paint a bigger picture than your AGI.

CONVENTION BACKGROUND

- **Who is Spirit convention for?** Spirit is for all 9th-12th grade members of GJHRR BBYO. Chapter leaders, chapter members, new members, seniors, and all members in between are invited and encouraged to attend! No leadership role or prior program participation is required to attend. Teens must be [registered members](#) of BBYO to attend the convention.
- **Why should I attend the convention?** BBYO conventions are one of the things that teens look forward to most during the school year. Conventions are planned and led by teens and are an opportunity for our region to come together as a community. Conventions provide teens with meaningful and immersive Jewish experiences and friendships that they will remember for years to come. This convention is where chapters compete against each other in a friendly rivalry throughout the weekend of skits, songs, and other fun activities.
- **Will Northern and Central Council be together for Spirit?** YES!! This newly reimagined Spirit Con will have councils together. Some competitions will be separated by AZA, BBG and BBYO.
- **Where will I be?** For safety and security reasons we do not share the exact hotel name until one week prior to all attendees and registrants. However the convention will be held at a hotel in Somerset, NJ.
- **How will I get there?** Busing will be provided from Livingston, Paramus and Marlboro. Teens will also have the option to be dropped off and picked up directly from the hotel. **There is absolutely no teen driving to convention.**
- **Do I get to choose my roommates?** This is a hotel convention with four teens to a room with two queen sized beds in each room. Teens will be able to submit one name as a roommate request when registering for the convention. Requests must be mutual to be considered. Every effort is made to ensure that teens are comfortable in their rooms and most teens are paired with a teen from their chapter and/or a delegate who is in the same grade. Please email Amy Gerson (agerson@bbyo.org) should you have a need for additional rooming accommodation.
- **What does programming look like?** While we love a good surprise, we're hoping to share exactly what you can expect! Here are the program highlights:
 - **Friday**
 - Opening Ceremonies
 - Kabbalat Shabbat
 - Special Programming



- **Saturday**
 - Saturday Morning Services
 - Teen-Led Programs and Chapter Competitions
 - Havdalah
 - Special Saturday Night event!
- **Sunday**
 - Chapter competitions!
- **Throughout Convention:**
 - Surprises!
 - Pop-up activities

PREPARING FOR CONVENTION

- **Required Pre SpiritCon parent call on either December 10 or 11. Please watch for details on time and zoom link.**
- **What are BBYO's community standards?** Linked [here](#) is BBYO's Community Agreement and linked here is BBYO's [Code of Conduct](#).
- **Packing list:** A complete packing list will be sent out closer to Spirit!
 - 👕 Casual clothes
 - 🧑🏻‍🦸🏻‍♀️ 👗 Shabbat outfit for Friday night
 - 🗑️ Chapter Spirit wear
 - 🚰 Refillable water bottle

Have any other questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out to Regional Director Amy Gerson at (ageron@bbyo.org)

LINKS FOR ONGOING BBYO OPPORTUNITIES

- [BBYO International Convention \(IC\) 2024](#)
- [BBYO Summer Programs](#)
- [Israel Travel ProgramsBBYO](#)
- [International Leadership Network](#)