



Aleph Zadik Aleph & B'nai B'rith Girls
NRE Regional Convention 2020
 Alexandria, Virginia | January 17-20

Northern Region East | Regional Convention 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

REGISTRATION

- **What are the important dates for me to know?**
 - **Sunday, November 10:** Scholarship applications open ([apply here](#))
 - **Sunday, November 24:** Scholarship applications due by 11:59pm ([apply here](#))
 - **Monday, December 9:** Registration Opens at 9:00pm (\$410)
 - **Thursday, December 19:** Registration closes at 11:59pm. No refunds will be given after this date. No late registrations will be accepted. (See full cancellation/refund policy below)
 - **Sunday, December 22:** CampDoc medical/dietary information due online
 - **Friday, January 3:** Late arrival/early departure form due ([complete form here](#))
 - **Friday, January 17 - Monday, January 20:** Regional Convention
- **What is the scholarship process?**
 1. **By Sunday, November 24 at 11:59pm:** Complete the scholarship application ([apply here](#))
 - Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.
 2. **On Tuesday, December 3:** Each family will be contacted via email with scholarship allocation information and next steps.
 3. **Between December 9 at 9:00pm and December 19 at 11:59pm:** Register for convention.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Scholarship recipients are not guaranteed a registration spot as registration is first come, first served. A waitlist will be started once registration is full and we will do our best to accomodate all teens.
 - All convention fees must be paid at the time of registration.
- **What is the cancellation/refund policy?** The deadline to cancel with a full program refund is the final registration deadline for each program. Until that date, full refunds will be granted for cancellations in writing (email is acceptable) for any reason. After the registration deadline (Thursday, December 19 at 11:59pm) we've already confirmed final counts with our vendors, and **no refunds will be given for any reason.** "No shows" will not receive a refund.
- **Can I register after the registration deadline?** If a teen wishes to register after this date they must email nre@bbyo.org, but may not be guaranteed a spot as we send in all of our rooming and space needs to the hotel when registration closes.
- **Are there an unlimited number of convention spots?** No. Our space at the hotel is limited based on program and rooming space. We have a limited number of spots and will move to a waitlist once we have reached our maximum. We encourage all participants to register early.
- **Oh no! I'm on a waitlist!** Our waitlist has started because we have currently filled our designated space with the hotel. As soon as we can confirm more space we will let waitlisted registrants into the active registration for convention.



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CONVENTION BACKGROUND

- **Who is convention for?** RC is for every Jewish teen involved with BBYO and any teen interested in becoming more involved in BBYO. Chapter leaders, chapter members, new members, 8th graders, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are all invited. No leadership role or prior program participation is required to participate. Teens must be [registered](#) members of BBYO to attend convention.
- **Why should I attend convention?** BBYO conventions are one of the things that teens look most forward to 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 Jewish experiences and friendships that they will remember for years to come.
- **Where will I be? Will I be leaving the hotel?** Teens will be staying in Alexandria, Virginia and will remain on-site for the duration of RC. Teens should not leave the hotel under any circumstances.
- **What does programming look like?** We like to keep some things a surprise! Here are some program highlights:
 - **Friday**
 - Shabbat Experiences
 - RC Talent Show
 - **Saturday**
 - - Shabbat Experiences
 - Chapter Competitions Havdallah and Song Session
 - AZA/BBG Separates
 - **Sunday**
 - Day of Impact Guest Speakers and Breakouts
 - AZA/BBG Mid-Year State of the Council Addresses
 - Social Experience & Shuk Marketplace
 - **Throughout Convention:**
 - Aleph Zadik Aleph Athletics (AZAA) and B'nai B'rith Girl Games (BBGG)
 - Limmud
 - Onegs
- **Are there any opportunities for parent engagement?** Yes, join us for a fun evening with BBYO as we celebrate our biggest convention of the year! Parents from NOVA, DC and Baltimore Councils are invited to get a glimpse of Havdalah, BBYO-style, followed by a dessert reception. You'll get the chance to meet other parents and hear from teens on why BBYO means so much to them. This event is free of charge. Questions? Contact Sara Barth, NRE's Community Engagement Associate, at sbarth@bbyo.org.



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PREPARING FOR CONVENTION

- **What medical form does BBYO need?** Within a week of registering for convention you'll receive an email from CampDoc.com and will be able to fill out the form electronically. Please note that if you have attended another BBYO convention or will be attending International Convention you will use the same login and only need to update your information. You do not need a physical for this convention.
- **What if I take medication?** Teens will be responsible for keeping and taking their own medications. These medications should be noted on your campdoc medical form. At this time, we will not have a professional nurse on staff. We will have over the counter medicines if need be (tylenol, tums, advil, etc.) Please note the [BBYO Code of Conduct](#) strictly states that teens are not allowed to share medication, including over the counter, and sharing could result in their dismissal from the program.
- **What is the recommended dress?** Stay tuned for a complete packing list. You'll want to check in with your teen's chapter for their planned spirit items. Teens will be indoors throughout the convention. Teens are not permitted to wear clothing that is revealing, such as short skirts or see-through tops, and may be asked to change clothes if necessary. Clothing that is profane or references drugs or alcohol is also not permitted. We do not permit any spirit that is potentially offensive to any race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, etc. More specific information on acceptable clothing choices will be sent in the RC spirit guide.
- **What should I pack?** The recommended packing list includes:
 - BBYO chapter spirit clothing (chapter-specific information will be sent by each chapter)
 - Toiletries
 - Jeans/slacks
 - Casual shirts/blouses
 - T-shirts
 - Sweatshirts/sweaters
 - Shabbat appropriate attire- Friday evening Shabbat attire should be nicer than typical casual clothes. Slacks and khakis with a polo shirt or button down shirt are appropriate for Alephs, and slacks, khakis, skirts, blouses or dresses are appropriate for BBGs. Revealing short skirts or low cut tops are not permitted.
 - Sneakers/casual shoes/dress shoes
 - Pajamas
 - Workout/gym clothes (if desired, there will be optional AZAA/BBGG programming and some chapter competitions require closed-toe shoes)
 - Kippah, Tallit and Tefillin (if desired)
 - AZA and BBG pins
 - A camera
 - Spending money (optional- see below)

*BBYO is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please leave all unnecessary valuables at home.



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- **Will I need spending money?** Teens are advised to bring a small amount of spending money to RC. During free time, teens may be given the option to purchase snacks with cash in addition to the snacks provided to them by BBYO. Also, teens may choose to purchase items at the *Shuk* (marketplace), showcasing BBYO 'swag' and apparel from chapters across the region. Items at the RC Shuk typically cost between \$1 and \$30. *BBYO is not responsible for lost or stolen items.* Please leave all unnecessary valuables at home.
- **What are the rules I should be following?** We ask all our BBYO participants to act with respect while at BBYO programs and follow all rules as stated in the [BBYO Code of Conduct](#). Please take some time to review these before arriving.
- **Need Extra Care?** Conventions and overnights have their challenges for teens, especially our younger members. If your teen needs extra care during the Convention, either socially, physically or otherwise (anxiety, shyness, etc.), please reach out to NRE DC Council Senior Regional Director, Paige Godfrey (pgodfrey@bbyo.org). We extend discrete support for teens (with and without their knowledge). For the safety and well-being of all our members, only our professional staff is able to arrange and/or provide extra care.

ON-SITE LOGISTICS

- **How do I get to convention?**
 - Baltimore, Montgomery County, and Howard County: Bus transportation to convention is provided. Bus drop-off is at 3:30pm on Friday and pick-up is generally between 11:30am-1:00pm on Monday. Bus timing and locations will be sent after registration.
 - Northern Virginia teens should be dropped off and picked up directly from the hotel. Specific timing will be sent soon! Northern Virginia teens typically carpool by chapter, reach out to your chapter for information.
 - Teens may NOT drive themselves to/from convention.
- **What if I have to come late or leave early?** No problem! If you have other commitments throughout the event that you're unable to miss- don't worry! Late arrivals and early departures are typically no problem as long as we know in advance. Please fill out [this form](#) for all late arrivals and early departures. Teens may not drive themselves to/from convention. Prorated convention costs are not available.
- **How does rooming work?** Teens are roomed randomly in double-double rooms (quad occupancy) with 2 teens in each bed OR in king-cot rooms (triple occupancy). We do our best to room teens with 1 other teen from their chapter although odd numbers and late registrations may cause this to not be possible. We also do our best to room teens with teens that are within 1-2 school years of one another. BBGs and Alephs will be roomed in separate areas of the hotel. 8th graders and first-time convention attendees in 9th grade will be able to select 1 roommate, and requests must be mutual.
- **What are the meals like? What if I have a dietary restriction?** All meals will be kosher style: vegetarian with either dairy or pareve and kosher meat with pareve. We ask for allergy information and food needs on the online medical form and we appreciate you sharing information as soon as possible so that we can accommodate specific food needs and limitations. All BBYO conventions are peanut and tree nut-free.
- **Can I bring food with me?** Yes, but all food and snacks must be completely nut-free.



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- **What if I don't feel well at convention?** Teens will be instructed the first night to find a staff member if they are not feeling well. Only full-time BBYO staff will provide needed care for teens and will contact parents if needed.
- **Can we store spare spirit items somewhere?** Teens will not be allowed to go to their bedrooms outside of designated morning, chofesh, and evening times to bring things to their rooms. Chapters planning multiple outfits within time slots should bring down their change of clothes in backpacks. For safety and security purposes teens will be responsible for keeping their backpacks throughout convention. There will not be a storage space available for boxes, bags, etc. Teens are responsible for their own belongings. We do not recommend bringing valuables.
- **What is BBYO's supervision policy?** BBYO has a minimum supervision ratio of 20 teens to every adult. All of BBYO's professional staff have had background checks and are trained to work with your teens and keep them safe. The staff and advisors help to supervise teens before, during, and after programming. Teen safety is our #1 priority.
- **What is BBYO's discipline policy?** As a reminder, you signed BBYO's Code of Conduct outlining our policies for substance abuse, property damage, and behavior guidelines with full understanding of our behavioral expectations as a member of BBYO. Rules and guidelines will be made clear to all participants upon their arrival at convention opening. Should one of our teens choose to act outside of our Code of Conduct, the incident will be addressed by the appropriate staff members. We have a zero-tolerance approach to any violation of the Code of Conduct and any discipline matter that comes to the attention of staff. If you are (or your teen is) dismissed from RC for disciplinary reasons or Code of Conduct violations, BBYO staff will arrange for travel home immediately, at your family's expense and without a refund.
- **How can I contact staff throughout the weekend?** You can always contact your regional staff via email or at nre@bbyo.org. If there is an emergency please call or text