

What do I expect to gain from USY on Wheels? Not only am I looking forward to seeing our beautiful country, becoming more in touch with my Jewish roots, and getting to know a lot of other Jewish teens, I'm most interested in becoming my own person. My older brother, Evan, was extremely involved in USY. When I was a freshman in high school, my brother was a senior, and on regional board. He was always very friendly and reliable and, I guess, considered "cool" around my region. Because my brother was so involved, I sunk into his shadow, and was known by a lot of people as nothing more than Evan's little sister. I fell head over heels for USY the moment I attended my first convention in the 8th grade. All I ever wanted to do was make my and everyone else's USY experience as amazing as possible.

After my brother graduated and was no longer in USY, I feel I truly blossomed. I showed my chapter and region that I, too, can be a leader. I can be positive when necessary and give others the joy that USY has brought me. I want to show other teens that they, too, can break out of their shells. Also, to some teens, USY may only be a social time to meet new people. They may not realize how important it is that we are spending as much time praying and getting into the songs and prayer to understand why we are Jewish, and what it means to be Jewish; to be loud and proud of our faith.

I wish I had more words describe how great the USY on Wheels program is going to be for not only me, but for every single other person on my bus. Even though I don't know anyone else on my bus, I can already tell that this is going to be the absolute best summer of my life. When I think about how much this experience will truly change my life, it almost brings tears to my eyes. I cannot thank you enough for giving me the chance to blossom even more than I already do and to love my religion even more, as well.