WHY SHOULD YOU COME TO CONVENTION?:

Friends
Memories
Experience
Growth

The magic words...

You might be asking yourself: what are all these acronyms? You might be thinking: why should I spend a weekend with BBYO? You might be contemplating whether convention is worth the money? Well I am here to tell you that the answer to your questions is yes. Yes, the acronyms are all confusing, but I will explain for you here what they all mean. Yes, you should spend a weekend with BBYO because they are some of the best experiences you will have. Yes, it is worth the money, because you will experiences moments that will make you realize it was worth every money [plus there is always scholarship].
The real question you should be asking is why not convention? Why not experience BBYO in a different atmosphere other than your weekly chapter meetings. Why not make friends who live in outside of your city. Why not become more involved in the world's largest pluralistic movement. Each year we have 3-4 regional conventions and 1 international convention. These conventions each are themed upon a different idea. The programming for the convention will correlate with that specific idea. Each of the programs are meaningful and worthwhile. Ultimately, the best part about convention is to be able to meet other people outside of your chapter. One of the coolest things about BBYO is that it gives you the opportunity to expand your network of friends so that you are not just stuck with one group, but instead more than one group to go to! Also, conventions allow you to spend time with both the boys and the girls which is nice because we do not get very many opportunities to meet the opposite gender. Ultimately, becoming regionally involved is one of the best decisions you can make in Gold Coast Region because of the memories you can create at these conventions. There is never a moment to be alone because everyone is always surrounded by the gold coast community we have created. If you are looking for a way to get more involved in BBYO, attending regional conventions is the first step.

WHICH CONVENTION IS WHICH?

MIT/AIT LTI

MIT/AIT LTI (in November): [MIT: Member-in-training] [AIT: Aleph-in-training] [LTI: Leadership Training Institute]. This convention is one of the most unique conventions. One weekend, one place, 2 convention. New members attend MIT/AIT to learn more about BBYO and how to become more involved by being educated on AZA and BBG traditions and values as well as chapter board and summer programs. At LTI, both AZA and BBG are together and are split into mini groups to expand their leadership skills and abilities by being educated on how to become more involved in BBYO and how to become a better member. It is one of the more educational conventions, but it also one of the more intimate, unique conventions that we have to offer.

AZAA/BBGG

AZAA/BBGG (in January): [AZAA: Aleph Zadik Aleph Athletics] [BBGG: B’nai B’rith Girls Games] This overnight is only one full day and one night. Here, teens participate in sports and color war related competitions and activities all day long with their chapter competing against other chapters. At night, participants connect in ice breaker activities as well as separates, which is an intimate program that separates AZA and BBG to discuss oneself.

SRC

SRC (in March or April): [SRC: Spirit/ Spring Regional Convention] This convention is a convention filled with love, friends, and community. At this convention, chapters celebrate their chapter spirit and pride by participating in daily dress up days as well as events for spirit points. One of the most special things about this convention is the States ceremony that happens where the Regional N’siah and Godol (the presidents) give a speech about the past year of Gold Coast Region and tell about their experience, Regional Life where regional board members tell about their experience in BBYO, and Regional Elections where all of us come together to elect the regional board for the following year!
Good question, but the true answer to this question is whichever you feel you will enjoy most. Some people only go to one convention all year, while some people attend every convention. You determine the BBYO experience that you want to receive. If you want to be more involved and expand your experience beyond the chapter, attend every convention. What I can tell you is whichever choice you are making you are making the right decision for yourself, but I can also tell you that if you choose to be fully involved in every convention that we offer, you are going to experience one of the most beneficial, craziest, monumental experiences of your life. So now you're asking yourself, how will I ever afford all of this... we've got you covered.

HOW CAN I AFFORD ALL OF IT?

There are three ways to get you to a lower price of convention:

1) Early bird discounts: ALWAYS, sign up for convention right away! Not only are you reserving a spot for convention, but you are saving money! Typically GCR offers a 10-15% deal for the early bird deadline. Although that percentage might not sound like a lot, it can easily save you $20-30 per convention.

2) Scholarship Application: If you need more money, apply for scholarship! As soon as a convention is opened up for registration, email rdiamond@bbyo.org stating that “I would love to come to convention although I need money to help get me there, is there scholarship available?” Upon this, you will receive a scholarship application, make sure you include everything. The more you include about your financials, the more money you will be granted! [The scholarship does not take long to fill out]

3) Fundraise for yourself: One of the most rewarding ways to attend a convention is by raising the money to go yourself. The thing about it is your peers want to support you. People want to help you do the things you love. The simplest fundraisers could include a bake sale or a raffle for a $10 giftcard to Starbucks and make each raffle ticket $.1. Anything works and it will be one step closer to getting you there.

If you have any further questions on what to do, how to decide, how to convince your parents to let you go (I will personally contact them if this is a situation you have), I AM YOUR GIRL!!! Contact me: Jilly Leibovitch at (561) 350-5988 or gcrbbyoll@gmail.com!