

Teens to Travel To New Orleans

In recognition of the fact that the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina is still being repaired, the New Jersey National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) will send two delegations of Jewish teen leaders from both public high schools and yeshivas to New Orleans this month. Once again, they will work in communities affected by the 2005 hurricane. The NCSY-Jewish Youth Leadership is the international youth movement of the Orthodox Union.

From Wednesday, February 8, through Sunday, February 12, the largest all-girls delegation yet, of 17 students from both yeshiva and public high schools, will represent Livingston High School; Fair Lawn High School; James Caldwell High School in West Caldwell; Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls in Teaneck; and Teaneck High School.

A second delegation will be sent Wednesday, February 22 through Monday, February 27, consisting of boys and girls from Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School of Livingston.

The New Jersey NCSY volunteer missions are coordinated by Rabbi Ethan Katz, associate regional director of New Jersey NCSY. The goal, he says, is to send Jewish teen leaders across the country, both as "proud Americans, to assist communities damaged by natural disasters, regardless of the faith and cultures of those citizens; and as proud Jews, to invest energy and love to inspire and strengthen the local Jewish communities by their presence."

Student participants are chosen by their schools based on various qualities, including scholastics, character development, leadership potential and content of a qualifying essay they write. Students attend training seminars before the trip, covering topics such as the concept of what a person's own responsibility is to mankind and the country in which he or she lives; the Jewish ideals of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world; and responses to expect from non-Jews

unfamiliar with Jewish clothing or ways of life.

