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*Together We're Making a Difference!*

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are excited to introduce a new Youth Track, specifically geared towards high school students during ***It's My Life!***, Rhode Island's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference!

This call for proposals is for youth-oriented presentations that will address the following topics at this year's event on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick:

**Engaging in the IEP, a Student Perspective**

... a vehicle for success ... plan for life after high school ... *Individualized*: it's all about YOU! ...

Help students realize the importance of this powerful tool. Presentations on this topic will prepare students to be active participants in their Individualized Education Plan meeting.

**Social Skills and How to Make New Friends**

... what to say, or not say ... role playing ... how to read social cues ... "friends" vs. "boyfriends"/"girlfriends", professional relationships and more ...

Help students understand the various types of personal and professional relationships that exist, and how to distinguish between them. Presentations on this topic will introduce young adults to some of the basic tools they need to make new friends and build healthy relationships.

**Smart Decision-Making 101**

... the difference between facts vs. feelings when making a decision ... learn to say "no" to peer pressure ... set goals that work for you ... what you can learn from your mistakes ...

Presentations on this topic will introduce young adults to the process of making informed decisions. This includes conversations about the value of trying new things, learning from your mistakes, weighing possible consequences, and making smart choices that are based on facts, rather than feelings or peer pressure.

## **Community Includes “U” and “I”**

... Community mapping ... personal discovery ... making connections based on common interests ... paying it forward...

Help young people learn how to explore the community around them and discover their niche. Presentations on this topic will engage students in self-discovery and help them make social connections that are based on common interests. These connections can also include opportunities for individuals to pay it forward by sharing their unique talents, skills and gifts with others.

## **It Really is YOUR Life!**

... transportation? ... hiring support staff? ... planning for your future? ... college? ... getting your first job? ... what else?!? ...

In addition to the 4 topics listed above, we welcome presentation proposals that address other issues which are in keeping with this year's theme. If you have a presentation that will empower young people as they make their transition to the adult world during their high school years, let us know!

Proposals are due no later than Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and presenters will be notified by Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

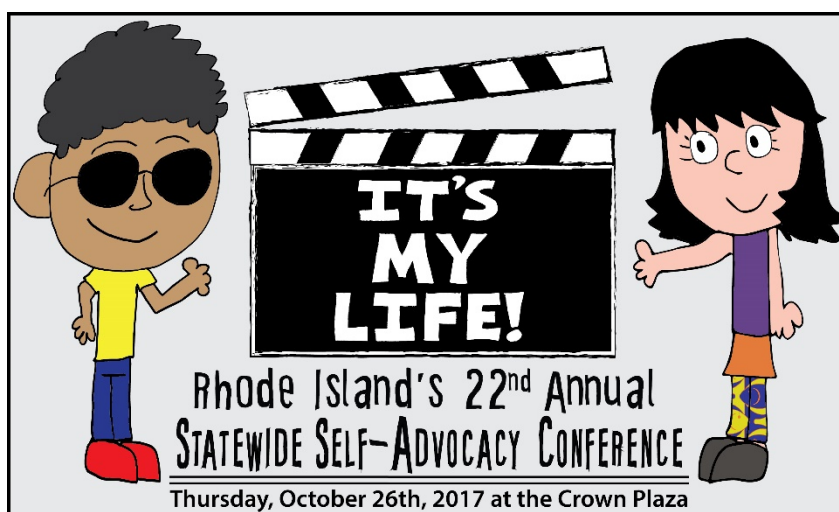
Please refer to the attached Presentation Proposal Form for additional information about presenting at this year's conference and then *SEND US YOUR IDEAS!*

Feel free to call or e-mail with any questions. We hope to hear from you soon.

*The 2017 Conference Planning Committee*

## **Advocates in Action RI**

*Together we're making a Difference!*





> **PROPOSALS ARE DUE** <  
**Thursday  
September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM: YOUTH TRACK**

**Guidlines for *IT'S MY LIFE!* Conference Presentations**

- Each session is 1 hour long. Presentations should be approximately 45-50 minutes, which will allow time to answer questions from the audience.
- Know your audience! Many attendees prefer a multimedia approach to learning. Use pictures, video, music, games, and other activities and materials, to help participants understand your message.
- Plan for 30-35 people in each session. Bring enough copies of any handouts that you want to share.
- Remember: *Nothing About Us Without Us!* Assure that your team of presenters includes Self-Advocates!

<b>NAME OF PRESENTATION:</b>		
<b>Contact Person:</b>		
<b>School or other affiliation:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>		
<b>E-mail:</b>		

**WHO IS ON YOUR TEAM OF PRESENTERS? \* This is NOT a registration form! Presenters must register.**

List presenters below and indicate if they will be registering or presenting only. Please assure that your team of presenters includes Self-Advocates! Use additional paper if your team has more than 4 presenters on it.

NAME OF PRESENTER	WILL REGISTER	PRESENT ONLY
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**AUDIO VIDEO EQUIPMENT AND ROOM SET-UP**

Check any AV equipment you plan to use during your presentation, and whether or not you are able to bring your own. Each room will have a microphone and head table for presenters. Rooms are set-up theater-style, with rows of chairs facing front.

LCD Projector    Screen    Speakers    DVD Player    Flipchart    Will bring our own equipment

Check here if you have other room set-up/AV requests and use additional paper to explain.

**CHECK THE TIMES THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO PRESENT**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

### WHAT IS YOUR PRESENTATION ABOUT?

The *It's My Life!* planning committee has identified several key areas that we are seeking presentations for during the Youth Track of this year's conference. Check the box for the appropriate topic area, or list a different topic, and use the space below to describe your presentation in simple, easy to understand, people-first language.

Engaging in the IEP, a Student Perspective

Smart Decision-Making 101

Social Skills and How to Make New Friends

Community Includes "U" and "I"

Other - *It Really is YOUR Life!* List Your Topic Area:

### DESCRIPTION

### MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS, INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES, AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND MORE!

What can attendees expect if they attend your session. For example: will you show a video or a Power Point, play music, teach dancing, share a craft project, or play a game? Do you need the room set up a specific way for any of this? The more details you can share, the better! Your answers will help individuals decide which sessions they want to attend, and help us with planning.

>>> **PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY** <<<  
**Thursday, September 28th**

**MAIL TO:**

Advocates in Action RI  
Box 41528  
Providence RI 02940-1528

**E-MAIL:**

[conference@advocatesinaction.org](mailto:conference@advocatesinaction.org)



**Contact Us With Any Questions**

Phone: **877-532-5543**

E-mail: [conference@advocatesinaction.org](mailto:conference@advocatesinaction.org)



Visit [www.AdvocatesinAction.org](http://www.AdvocatesinAction.org) for conference news and material, including a PDF Version of this PRESENTER PROPOSAL FORM, which you can save, print to mail or send by e-mail

*It's My Life!* is hosted by Advocates in Action RI with support from the RI Department of BHDDH & this year's sponsors.

**Thank You! Together We're Making a Difference!**