



Rhode Island's 23rd Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference
Thursday, October 25th, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick

September 05, 2018

Calling All Self-Advocates, Friends and Allies,

It's that time of year again! As summer winds its way down, we can already feel those exciting conference vibes begin to flow! We hope you do as well, and that Thursday, October 25th is marked on your calendar to attend **WHY NOT?!?**, Rhode Island's 23rd Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference at the Crown Plaza in Warwick.

We also hope that some of you will consider sharing a workshop presentation at this year's event. We've had some truly amazing presentations from powerful teams of Self-Advocates and allies over the past 22 conferences! We're anticipating more of the same for this year's event, and are looking forward to the 18 different workshop sessions that conference attendees will be able to choose from throughout the day.

>> THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK-UP! <<

We are looking for people who can share interactive, energizing, and dynamic presentations that will engage and educate attendees, encourage them to speak-up, and empower them to live life to the fullest.

If this sounds like something you want to do, don't doubt yourself; go for it! (Hey, *WHY NOT?!?*, right?) Everyone has a life story to tell, and a message to share! If you think you know what you want to say, but aren't sure how to say it, we can connect you with someone who has already been a presenter to help! Remember: You can do it, and your peers will support you every step of the way!

"OK, I think I want to be a Presenter! Now what do I need to do?"

That's great! We'd love to have you! Here's what you need to do next:

1. Check out the list of suggested workshop topics, or use one of your own to tell others what **WHY NOT?!?** means to you.
2. Review the Presentation Guidelines on the Proposal form.
3. Pull together a team of co-presenters and review the presentation proposal form to send us your ideas. If you want to present by yourself, think about how you will do it, and make a plan so that you'll be successful.
4. Call or email us if you have any questions, or need some assistance.



5. Send us your completed Presentation Proposal NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th. **This form is also available on our website, where you can download a pdf version to fill-in on your computer and email back to us
6. Wait to hear from us before you register! Everyone who attends **WHY NOT?!** needs to register. This includes presenters who plan to attend the full conference day. However, if your proposal is accepted, up to four (4) members of your team will qualify for a reduced rate of just \$20/person!

If you have more than four presenters, the additional people will need to pay the full registration fee if they are planning to attend the conference. The regular price is \$40 per person for the early bird rate, which expires on Friday, October 12th, and \$50 per person after October 12th. Either way, we'll contact you about your proposal by Friday, October 5th, so everyone on your team has plenty of time to register.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this year's conference, and helping us share this information with others who may also be interested. We appreciate your experience and expertise, and know that all of the 2018 Workshop presenters will be amazing! We hope to hear from you soon, and see you on Thursday, October 25th at the Crowne Plaza.

The 2018 Conference Planning Committee

Advocates in Action RI

Phone: 877-532-5543

E-mail: conference@advocatesinaction.org



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SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Your presentation at this year's conference should empower people to **ASK A REASONABLE QUESTION**, and **EXPECT A REASONABLE ANSWER!** While every situation is different, in general, adults who have a developmental disability have the right to make an informed choice, even if others around them disagree. Meanwhile, for teenagers who will be attending this year's conference this is especially important, as they begin to make the transition into the adult world.

Here are some possible topics. These are only suggestions. Speak about what you know!

WHY NOT: Do something different/"off the menu" during your day?!?

WHY NOT: Decide what matters most to YOU and pick your own priorities?!?

WHY NOT: Be prepared to face every day challenges?!?

WHY NOT: Discover some of the cool things your peers are already doing it?!?

WHY NOT: Learn about your rights, and the responsibilities that go with them?!?

WHY NOT: Give something back to your community?!?

WHY NOT: Try something new?!?

WHY NOT: Be a regular at your local coffee shop?!?

WHY NOT: Get a job, start your own business?!?

WHY NOT: Go to college?!?

WHY NOT: Choose WHERE you want to live, and WHO you want to live with?!?

WHY NOT: Be in a romantic relationship, have a significant other, get married?!?

WHY NOT: Register to vote?!?

WHY NOT: Make informed decisions about the way you want to live your life?!?



**Presentations are Due
Friday, Sept. 28th**

It's isn't about asking "WHY NOT?!?"

It's about being empowered to ask a reasonable question,
and expect a reasonable answer,
even if it isn't the one you wanted to hear.

After all, it's YOUR life! WHY NOT live it that way?



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PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

Guidelines for *WHY NOT!!!* Conference Presentations

- Remember: **Nothing About Us Without Us!** Your team should include at least one presenter who has a developmental disability and can share their insight and perspective on your topic.
- Each session is 1 hour long. Your 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. Avoid using Powerpoint presentations that have lots of words, but if there are some words, please be prepared to read them for your audience.
- Plan for 40-50 people in each session. Please plan accordingly if you are bringing any handouts that you want to share.
- Be clear about your AV needs! We have a limited number of LCD projectors to share. Let us know if you can bring your own.

**Presenter Proposals
 Are Due
 Friday, September 29th**

NAME OF PRESENTATION: <i>(short and "catchy" names are great!)</i>		
Has anyone on your team presented at one of RI's SA Conferences in the past? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO		
Contact Person:		
SA Group or other Affiliation:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		
E-mail:		

WHO IS ON YOUR TEAM OF PRESENTERS? *(These people will be presenting at the conference if your proposal is accepted).*

This is NOT a registration form! Presenters who would like to attend the full conference day must register. Attendees who are also presenting are eligible for a reduced rate of \$20/person. A maximum of 4 individuals from each presentation team may register using the reduced rate. List presenters below and indicate who will be registering at the reduced rate for the Conference Day. We will notify the contact person listed for your presentation by October 5th.

NAME OF PRESENTERS	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"/>

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENTATION ABOUT?

Describe your presentation in 3-5 short sentences using simple, easy to understand, people-first language. What will a person who comes to your presentation learn? There will be 6 presentations taking place at the same time. Your description will help conference attendees decide which session they want to go to. **Contact us if you would like some assistance writing this.**

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.

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 Other:

Check here if you are able to bring your own AV Equipment Check to confirm theater-style set-up

If you need the room set up differently than theater style, let us know.

CHECK ALL OF THE TIMES THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO PRESENT

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

>>> **PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY** <<<
Friday, September 29th

MAIL TO:
Advocates in Action RI
Box 41528
Providence RI 02940-1528

E-MAIL:
conference@advocatesinaction.org



Contact Us With Any Questions

Phone: **877-532-5543**

E-mail: **conference@advocatesinaction.org**



Visit www.AdvocatesinAction.org
for conference news, registration
materials and other updates

Why NOT??? 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!