

THE LEADERSHIP SERIES

Graduation Requirements



This 3-page document describes some of the time commitments, group projects, and other activities you'll be involved in as a member of the Leadership Series. We understand this may look like a lot of work but looks can be deceiving!

While it's true that you'll be busy, we guarantee the Leadership Series is NOT your typical classroom. Chances are the activities and the time we spend together will be unlike anything you ever experienced in school.

For example, you don't need any special training or technical skills to join us. Don't worry if you've never done some of the things on this list, like attending meetings using the Zoom Video App, researching an important topic on the internet, or giving a Virtual Presentation in front of a large group of people; we'll teach you!

We meet often, so there's no need to rush. You'll have plenty of time to relax, ask questions, and get to know your classmates. We also practice what we learn together before asking anyone to do something in front of an outside audience. If you don't feel ready, say the word, and we'll practice some more.

In addition, we have a team of Peer Mentors available to provide assistance as needed. Peer Mentors are Leadership Series graduates who work for Advocates in Action to support current members. Mentor can meet with you between classes to help with assignments and answer questions.

And speaking of homework, you should also know that we don't grade your work. That means the only way to "fail" is by refusing to try. In order to graduate, you need to come to class, give it your best effort, and remember that it's ok to ask for help.

Rest assured that our Leadership Series team is flexible, creative, and committed to your success. We know you'll be amazing and pledge to work with you to help figure things out!

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Everyone must agree to the Graduation Requirements listed on the following pages, which can be found on the 2025 Leadership Series Application.



☐ **Requirement 1:** Attend the Kick-Off retreat on **Wednesday, February 5th, 2025**

The retreat takes place on the Zoom Video Platform from **10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**, with an hour-long break for lunch at noon.

☐ **Requirement 2:** Attend weekly classes on **Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

The Leadership Series is a BIG commitment! Classes meet every Wednesday, beginning on February 12th and ending on Wednesday, June 25th.

Attendance at weekly classes is an important graduation requirement! Members should only miss class if they have an excused absence. An "excused absence" means you can't attend class due to circumstances beyond your control.

For example, missing class because you're sick or you lose your internet connection are both excused absences. On the other hand, deciding to skip class and go to the beach isn't.

☐ **Requirement 3:** Do the Work

As a member of the Leadership Series, you'll have various assignments to work on outside of class. You'll also have a team of Peer Mentors you can contact for assistance.

While we don't assign any grades, we do require members to work on these assignments and bring their answers to class. We also encourage everyone to ask for help as needed. Afterall, asking questions is one of the best ways to learn!



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☐ **Requirement 4:** Be as Involved as Possible

There will be extra activities outside of class, such as virtual field trips, court hearings, public forums, various committee and workgroups, songwriting sessions, and other team-building activities. Although many of these will be optional, we encourage members to attend whenever possible.

☐ **Requirement 5:** Practice Your Leadership Skills

Leadership Series members will play an active role in planning and presenting at Rhode Island's Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, which takes place on **Thursday, May 9th, 2025**. The conference day will be held on Zoom. Members are also required to attend the 2025 event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

☐ **Requirement 6:** Respect Privacy

The Leadership Series is a safe place to share personal information related to the topics we'll be discussing. This information is private, and you must respect everyone's confidentiality. This means you agree not to repeat confidential conversations that take place during class. It also means you won't share a fellow member's personal contact information without their consent.

☐ **Requirement 7:** Photo/Video Release

Advocates in Action records our classes to share on a private 2025 Leadership Series web page. We also take photos during our in-person activities.

Class members must agree to being recorded and allow Advocates in Action to use some of the media we produce on our website and other social media platforms.