

Help Wanted: LPA District Advocacy Representative Job Description

LPA seeks a volunteer from EACH district to act as point of contact for individual and systems advocacy issues in their area, help craft an advocacy “tool kit” that can be used to advocate for the rights of people with dwarfism, and help set the priorities of LPA’s advocacy committee agenda that it recommends to the board.

Responsibilities:

- Act as point person for any advocacy issue that arises within a district. For example this can mean offering advice about an individual self advocacy issue for an LP that is being discriminated against at school or work. It can also mean providing leadership and support on broader systems advocacy issues that require changes of a governmental or institutional policy.
- Contribute to the development of a “tool kit” that can be used by members and advocacy reps in their efforts to create positive change for the lives of people with dwarfism. It is hoped that advocacy reps will bring a wide range of experiences and backgrounds to the table to help build a kit that will reflect a diverse set of tools that can be used to create change. These tools can include, but are not limited to, strategies for: educating government leaders and policy makers about the rights and needs of folks with dwarfism, dealing with local media to improve the culture image of dwarfism or fight for a specific advocacy cause, educating the educators in our school systems to try to build positive change in attitude from a young age, and organizing the dwarfism community to create change in a particular community.
- Discuss the broad goals of LPA’s advocacy efforts at a national level, prioritizing these goals and creating strategies for implementation that can be executed or recommended to the board when necessary. This will involve a serious discussion and debate about what LPA can and should do in the advocacy arena.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of the challenges and discrimination faced by people with dwarfism that can be addressed through advocacy.
- Knowledge of *how* to advocate and an ability to teach that to others, whether it be other advocacy reps or the members of your district.
- Leadership and community organizing skills that can be used to create change in your district.
- Networking skills so you can build alliances with other, like minded advocacy groups in your area.
- Analytical skills that will be deployed when thinking about the kinds of advocacy LPA should engage in.
- Communication skills that will help you talk about and negotiate a consensus about important, complicated issues within LPA politics.

To Apply:

District directors will appoint district advocacy reps. Interested parties are encouraged to contact their director and directors are encouraged to encourage or “nominate” individuals they feel would be a good fit.