



SELF-ADVOCATES OF ADEC CHARTER

Purpose

Self-Advocates of ADEC is a chapter of Self-Advocates of Indiana. Self-Advocates of Indiana is a statewide advocacy organization that empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As self-advocates, the group is comprised of citizens who speak out, advocate, and educate for equal rights, respect, and inclusion for all in the community. Self-advocacy is standing up for individual rights, overseeing one's life, and being treated with respect. Self-Advocates of Indiana was started in 1990 by Darcus by Darcus Nims, a leader in Indiana's self-advocate movement. She believed that all people with disabilities should have a good life, complete with equal rights, respect, and inclusion in the community. Today, the message continues to be carried with more than 40 chapters across the state.

As one of the 40 chapters, Self-Advocates of ADEC is an option for self-advocacy in Elkhart and St. Joseph County. As an agency, ADEC proudly advocates for and serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, so they live lives full of informed choice and possibility. The chapter is lead by and for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, aligning with ADEC's Core Values:

A Life of their Own: ADEC individuals deserve a change to...

- Make their own choices
- Pursue their passions
- Learn new skills
- Develop healthy personal relationships
- Make a positive contribution

Dignity: ADEC individuals are entitled to...

- Respect and professionalism as their daily needs are met
- Protection from exploitation and abuse

Employment: ADEC individuals deserve the opportunity to...

- Find dignity and meaning in work
- Make productive contributions to the community through work
- Contribute to the well-being of our society by being tax-paying citizens

Community: As an active part of the community, ADEC...

- Connects individuals with local opportunities when possible
- Is a catalyst for new individual opportunities if they don't exist

Mission Statement: *Self-Advocates of ADEC, in Elkhart and St. Joseph County, advocating abilities over disabilities. Igniting our independence through education, communication, and community outreach.*

What is Self-Advocates of ADEC?

Self-Advocates of ADEC is comprised of self-advocates in Elkhart and St. Joseph County and is a chapter member of Self-Advocates of Indiana, North Region. Many members attend service(s) with ADEC, but any adult with a documented disability in the county can join.

The chapter was formerly known as Power for Independence, which started in 2005. Power for Independence had two chapters – Elkhart and Goshen. From 2005 through 2019, both chapters were involved in numerous community service projects or activities. At a glance, these projects or organizations include Toys for Tots, Hurricane Katrina relief, Humane Shelter, Salvation Army, All for Animal Rescue, Habitat for Humanity, Precious Paws Rescue, Food Pantries, and local elementary school.

In 2021, the chapters joined together under the chapter name Self-Advocates of ADEC. The chapter shares a common goal of igniting their independence through education, communication, and community outreach. The individual and group goals are to increase:

- Knowing their personal mission
- Speaking up for oneself
- Understanding their rights
- Asking for the support each need
- Sharing their stories
- Speaking up for others
- Educating themselves
- Educating others
- Getting involved in their community and state

Membership

To be a member, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Member has a documented disability
- Member fills out application and pays yearly dues of \$10
- Member lives in Elkhart or St. Joseph County
- Member attends all scheduled meetings either in-person or virtually. If member cannot attend, member will call the President or Liaison to let them know of the absence.

A membership drive takes place yearly the month of November. All clients with ADEC are mailed out an application and given one month to turn in their application. The membership drive is also shared on ADEC's social media platform(s). The application includes the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be a member of Self-Advocates of ADEC?
2. What does self-advocacy mean to you?
3. What do you want to accomplish by being a member of Self-Advocates of ADEC?

If an applicant is interested in a Chapter Officer position, an additional question is asked:

1. Describe your leadership and self-advocacy experience.

Applications and membership dues can be submitted in the following ways:

- Mailed application and yearly dues to: Self-Advocates of ADEC | 19670 SR 120, Bristol, IN 46507
- E-mailed application with dues sent separately
- Dropped off application with dues at an ADEC location

Self-Advocate of Indiana Chapter Rules

For a local chapter to become a member of the state organization, the local group must:

1. Have no less than 10 members
2. Meet monthly
3. Be willing to speak out in their community concerning issues of self-advocates
4. Have a representative for the state group
 - a. Representative must be an individual with a disability
 - b. Representative can only vote on proposal(s) brought before the state group
 - c. Representative must meet quarterly
5. All members have a disability
6. Each group may have one or more helpers who do not have a vote
7. Fee to join is \$20 per year

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Chapter Officers are voted in by Self-Advocates of ADEC members. Chapter Officer's serve for two years and have the ability to apply as a board member for Self-Advocates of Indiana.

President

- Sets and monitors chapter goals
- Runs chapter meetings
- Takes the lead in helping the chapter develop projects and service activities
- Delegates tasks as necessary

Vice President

- Second in-charge: Learns and helps with the president duties and fills in or takes over as necessary
- Assists the chapter in developing projects and service activities

Secretary

- Records attendance and meeting minutes for all meetings
- Organizes and monitors the chapters yearly calendar
- Third in-charge: Learns and helps with the president duties and fills in or takes over as necessary
- Assists the chapter in developing projects and service activities

Treasurer

- Monitors the chapter budget
- Reports the chapters treasury status at each officer meeting
- Assist the chapter in developing projects and service activities

Member

- Attends all meetings
- Is respectful, shares ideas/opinions, and asks questions
- Is involved in service activities
- Responsible for asking for support from DSP/Helper

Liaison

The liaison attends all meetings and service activities. A liaison is a person who helps an advocate group work better without taking over. The liaison can give ideas about how to run the group, can support the work of the group, and can teach the group how to work around problems. The liaison should never become the group leader or tell the group what they must do. The liaison will help with duties, as needed, and requested by the President. This can include, but is not limited to the following:

- Communication with Self-Advocates of Indiana
- Logistics
- Scheduling
- Event Planning

DSP/Helper

- Assist self-advocate in transportation needs – to and from meetings and events
- Available to support self-advocate, when asked

CALENDAR

Self-Advocates of ADEC members meet bi-monthly, either in-person or virtually through Microsoft Teams. The meetings take place the second Tuesday, every other month, from 10:00-11:00am. If a member attends Day Program, their meetings will take place in a room at their Day Program locations that is equipped with the technology needed to attend the meeting virtually. Members may meet outside of these dates based on agreed upon projects and/or service activities.

2022 Member Calendar

- Tuesday, January 11th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, March 08th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, May 10th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, July 12th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, September 13th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, November 08th - 10:00-11:00am

Chapter officers meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10:00-11:00am at Gaining Grounds Center located at 19670 SR 120, Bristol, IN 46507.

2022 Officers Calendar

- Tuesday, January 11th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, February 08th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, March 08th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, April 12th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, May 10th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, June 14th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, July 12th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, August 09th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, September 13th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, October 11th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, November 08th - 10:00-11:00am
- Tuesday, December 13th - 10:00-11:00am

The calendar is created on an annual basis, based on the chapter's projects and service activities, created by the chapter officers. The calendar is comprised of guest speakers, educational opportunities, project work and service activities.

Transportation

Transportation options available:

- Waiver Transportation
- Community Trolley (excludes Middlebury)
- ACCESS Transportation
- Taxi
- Trusted Family or Friend