



Together We're Making a Difference!

September 08, 2017

Calling All Self-Advocates, Friends and Allies,

Hi there everyone, and happy end of summer! We're writing to let you know that Advocates in Action RI is requesting presentation proposals for ***It's My Life!***, Rhode Island's 22nd Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference on Thursday, October 26th at the Crown Plaza in Warwick.

Self-Advocacy is about being empowered and included. It means learning about issues that affect people who have a developmental disability, and speaking-up about the ones that you think are important. It means deciding how you want to live your life, and learning what you need to do to make that happen.

This year, we are expecting approximately 300 youth and adults with developmental disabilities, families, support staff, and other allies to join us at this year's event for a day of listening, learning and sharing. ***It's My Life!*** attendees will have their choice of 18 different presentations that focus on theme that are scheduled throughout the day.

>>This is Your Opportunity to Speak-Up! <<

What does ***It's My Life!*** mean to you? Do you have a life experience, area of expertise, or unique talent that you want to share about this year's conference theme?

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

We realize ***It's My Life!*** is a very broad theme, and have included a list possible presentation topics to help narrow things down. Our conference planning committee developed this list based on conversations with individuals and local Self-Advocacy groups, but it's not meant to be exclusive, so don't let it stop you from sending in other ideas as well!

If this sounds like something you want to do, check out the attached [Presentation Proposal Form](#) for more information, and then ***SEND US YOUR IDEAS!*** If your proposal is accepted, up to 4 members of your team may register at a 50% reduced rate (*\$20/person for the Conference Day!*)

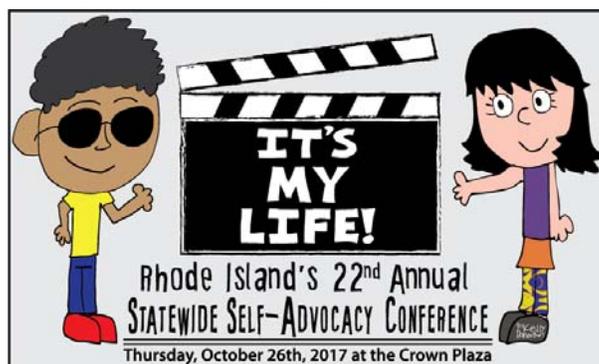
Proposals are due no later than Thursday, September 28th, and presenters will be notified by Thursday, October 5th. Contact us with any questions. We hope to hear from you soon.

The 2017 Conference Planning Committee

Advocates in Action RI

Phone: 877-532-5543

E-mail: conference@advocatesinaction.org



IT'S MY LIFE!

Rhode Island's 22nd Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

Examples of possible topics for workshop presentations:

The "Person" in Person Centered Planning: How do you write your support plan so that it's *YOUR* support plan?

Decisions, Decisions: Have you made any big decision in life? What about day to day choices? What did you learn? What should people know to help them decide?

Get to Work: Do you work in the community? How did you get your job? What was your biggest fear? What do you like the most about it?

Your Vote – Your Power: DON'T tell people *WHO* they should vote for. DO explain HOW to vote.

We Get Around: Do you take RIDE? RIPTA? UBER? Tell others how you get around and how they can, too!

Community Needs "U" and "I": What does it really mean to be "a part of your community"? How to make community connections beyond the disability world.

You're the Boss: Did you hire your support staff? How do you supervise staff while they are supporting you?

R E S P E C T: Many of us have stories about being called names and bullied because of our disability. What can people do about this?

Let's Connect: How do you make friends? Do you have any dating tips?

Can You Hear Me Now?: Think of a time that you spoke up for yourself and how that made you feel. Share your story and you can help others that way, too!

Home Sweet Home: Information about different places to live, how to make the place where you live "feel like home", and what that means.

Bragging Rights: What makes you proud to be you? Share an accomplishment, a talent you have, or a skill you've learned.

Extra-Extra: What's your hot topic? What does *It's My Life!* mean to you?



***It's My Life* is Hosted by Advocates in Action RI**

Box 41528 ♦ Providence ♦ RI ♦ 02940-1528

e-mail: conference@advocatesinaction.org ♦ phone: 877-532-5543

Visit Us On-Line for the Latest Conference News:

www.AdvocatesinAction.org ♦ Facebook.com/AdvocatesinActionRI





Rhode Island's 22nd Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

Thursday, October 26th, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick RI

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

Guidelines 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. If you have a presentation that's less than 50 minutes, consider teaming up with someone and working on a presentation together.
- 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 40-50 people in each session. Bring enough copies of any handouts that you want to share.
- Be clear about your AV needs! List the types of multimedia, and AV equipment that you will use. Let us know if you can bring your own AV.
- Make sure that at least one member of your presentation team is a person who has a developmental disability. As we like to say in the Self-Advocacy world, "*Nothing About Us Without Us!*"

>> **IMPORTANT DATES** <<
Thursday, September 28th
Presenter Proposals Due
Thursday, October 5th
Presenters Notified

NAME OF PRESENTATION:

Has anyone on your team presented at one of RI's SA Conferences in the past? Yes No

Contact Person:

SA Group or other Affiliation:

Address:

City:	State:	Zip:
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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 50% reduced rate (\$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 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"/>

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

Describe how you need the room set-up (if different than theater-style):

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** <<<
Thursday, September 28th

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 and material, including a PDF Version of this PRESENTER PROPOSAL FORM, which you can complete and return electronically.

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!