
Working with Adult Allies

— Savannah Logsdon-Breakstone —

Savannah

Started doing advocacy at age 12

Was active in Youth organizing (both mental health and
Cross disability) in late teens & early 20s

State & Federal level policy advising; non-profit boards

Currently on the PADDC, PASILC, various advisories for
The PA Office of Developmental Programs, &
Vice President of a state level org called SAU1
(... in addition to my day job doing ASAN's
social media)



What Do We Mean By Adult Allies?

Adult allies can help you along the way.

These are people who are no longer youth & young adults, but because they are supportive of youth advocacy & activism are allies.

Allies don't have to agree with you on everything, but they will back you up when you do agree.



Image Source: Wikipedia

What would we do with adult allies?

Adult Allies can help you do a lot of things! Here are some roles they might take:

- Fiduciary
- Organizer/facilitator
- Supporter
- Running another org
- Adviser
- Teacher



Image Source: pixabay

Why do I want Adult Allies though?

Sometimes it can be frustrating to find real allies. But having allies can help!

If you are starting or joining a school based group, you'll probably need one as an advisor for your group.

If your group are all under the age of majority, you might need an adult of some sort to do legal business like sign contracts.

When any org is first starting out, they might need to find a fiduciary. If you are a youth organization, having a reliable adult ally at an organization to get them to serve that role can really help.

Why do I want Adult Allies though?

Experience! Hearing from someone who has been in advocacy a while can help you get a better sense of how advocacy works- how long things take, what problems are common, and how to make things happen.



Image Source: pexel

They might also have information that you might not be able to find the answer to yet- because of resources, access to where that information is, or just because of needing more people looking.

How do I find adult allies?

Think about who you know

Reach out! Ask them how you can get together to on your issue that talk about mentoring you.

Look for former youth leaders- they might have a good sense of what is needed for you to succeed!



Image Source: Pixelbay

See who is doing work on your Issue

Join groups

are not just for youth.

Consider parents, teachers, or faith leaders. Can they support you without taking over?

Look up mentoring orgs

What makes a good Adult Ally?

What makes a good ally for YOU and your group might be different from another group based on your needs. Here are a few things to consider:

- Do they understand that you are in charge of your group or project?
- Do they understand why youth voices are important to the conversation?
- Do they agree with you on one or more of your issues?
- Are they comfortable with or experienced with the tactics your group wants to use?
- Do they have the time and energy to do what you need of them?

What if there are problems?

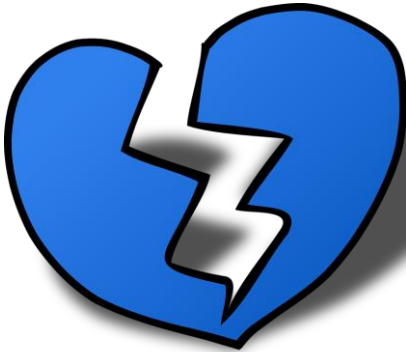


Image source: Pixel max

I think there might be problems with my fiduciary
And want to change to a new one!

They say they are an ally but they don't listen
To what we are saying!

She keeps steering us away from our issues into
"Fun" or "easy" things.

He wants us to take on an issue we aren't interested in.

Questions?

Before you go! [Please click here to complete a brief feedback Survey.](#) Thank you!

Thanks for joining us!

Savannah Logsdon-Breakstone SBreakstone@AutisticAdvocacy.org



@nicocoer (personal twitter)

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network

<http://autisticadvocacy.org/>



@autselfadvocacy



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