



Best Buddies Month Training

Facilitation Notes

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Objective: To provide ambassadors with the tools, training, and language to promote the Best Buddies organization and showcase Best Buddies Month.

Goal: Ambassadors will leave the training with the ability to speak to the mission, highlight the impact of the organization on their lives and speak about Best Buddies Month.

Materials: Handouts, PPT, projector, Internet access, pencils, paper

Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm | 30 minute lunch break

Welcome

10:00am – 10:30am

Recap training | Purpose: 15 minutes

- All ambassadors have learned to write a speech, to present and speak publically, and to advocate for something important to them. Now they will learn to advocate for the mission and speak about the importance of Best Buddies Month.
- The topic selected is: Best Buddies International and Best Buddies Month
- This session will review the history and initiatives of the organization, the programs and goals, and ensure all ambassadors can speak to the organization's impact and how to incorporate Best Buddies Month.
 - Even if ambassadors are not matched in a program, they can still learn about what we do as an organization and how we operate worldwide.

Icebreaker: 10 minutes

Two Truths and a Lie or Skittles Life Story

Two Truths and a Lie Directions:

Ask all players to arrange themselves in a circle. Instruct each player to think of three statements about themselves. Two must be true statements, and one must be false. For each person, he or she shares the three statements (in any order) to the group. The goal of the **icebreaker** game is to determine which statement is false. The group votes on which one they feel is a lie, and at the end of each round, the person reveals which one was the lie.

Skittles Life Story Directions:

Pass around the candy and tell each participant to choose anywhere from 1 to 5 pieces of anything that they want. Instruct them not to eat it yet, though. After they have chosen their candy, you will tell them what each candy type/color represents.

If there is a whiteboard or chalkboard present, write on the board the following:

- Red – Favorite hobby
- Green – Favorite place on earth
- Blue – Favorite memory
- Yellow -Dream job
- Orange – Wildcard (tell us anything about yourself!)

If you don't have the above colors, change the above to match the candy types that you have. Each person takes turns introducing himself or herself, beginning with their name and then saying one fact for each candy type that they have. This easy [introduction game](#) should go relatively quickly.



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Goals and rules: 5 minutes

- Review rules established in past trainings
- Remind speech coaches and advocates to be present, respectful, and engaged
- Any additional rules to include?
 - No cell phones
 - Listen quietly
 - Take turns, do not interrupt others
 - Be respectful
 - All ideas are good ideas
 - Be encouraging of others
 - Ask question
 - Have fun!



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Being a Best Buddies Ambassador

10:30am – 10:45am

Goals of a BBI Ambassador: 15 minutes

Discussion: What does it mean to be a Best Buddies Ambassador?

- Stress to the group that an ambassador is representing BB and our movement by incorporating their personal experience with BB and BB's impact on their lives.
- What can you take from past trainings to apply to today's training?
- Why is knowing about Best Buddies important to being an ambassador?

History of Best Buddies International

10:45am – 11:00am

History of Best Buddies: 15 minutes

Materials: PowerPoint

Goal: To provide ambassadors with a clear understanding of the Best Buddies movement.

- Group will review BB History PPT and discuss eight official programs, three pillars, mission and vision

Initiative Focus: Best Buddies Month

11:00am-11:45pm

What is Best Buddies Month: 20 minutes

Materials: PowerPoint

Goal: To provide ambassadors with a clear understanding of Best Buddies Month and how they can incorporate it into their BB story.

Please review the below points with the group.

- Best Buddies Month is a month-long celebration that takes place each year in March, dedicated to commemorating the Best Buddies mission.
- During the month of March, Best Buddies participants from around the world are invited to commemorate the Best Buddies vision and mission and to celebrate the friendships, leadership, and jobs they enjoy through our global impact. Best Buddies Month is a valuable time to bring together current members, community partners, families, and future participants to learn more about our mission and engage in inclusive events that promote our goals and impact.

Why celebrate Best Buddies Month?: 25 minutes

Materials: PowerPoint

Goals: The importance in recognizing our mission at a specific time of the year.

Please review the below points with the group.

- There are a myriad of reasons to celebrate Best Buddies Month.
- First, to cultivate our mission and celebrate our chapters, leaders, partners, and jobs.
- Second, to increase awareness of Best Buddies in the community and invite new members to learn about our impact vision and mission of inclusion.
- Third, to raise money and secure resources to support our organization; members can fundraise, share materials, post on social media, etc. for expansion of new programs, jobs, and bring events to new regions to showcase our mission and goals to take part in this worldwide initiative



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- Brainstorming Session! (See activity, below)

Activity

- Brainstorming Activity:
 - On the whiteboard or on a presentation paper discuss with the class as a group the below questions. Make a list of their response so they can refer back to the answers when they are composing their speeches with their speech coaches.
 - Why Best Buddies Month is important? What is the goal? What can it accomplish?
- End the brainstorming activity and segment with the below recap.
 - It is a time for Best Buddies participants to reflect on the importance of friendship, jobs, and the development of future leaders. Most importantly, it is a time to show the world the significance of these essentials in every individual's life.

Your Story and Best Buddies Month

11:45am-12:15pm

What is your experience with Best Buddies Month? 20 minutes

Materials

- Lined paper and writing utensils

Activity

- Have ambassadors work with their speech coach to write down some memories about their experience with Best Buddies Month.
 - What was their role? How did they feel participating? What feedback did they receive?
- If an ambassador has never been involved with Best Buddies Month, have them describe their hopes for involvement. What do you think it will be like? What would you hope to share? Why do you want to be involved?

What role does an Ambassador have in Best Buddies Month? 10 minutes

Why is it important to be able to tell others about yourself, your experiences, or your hopes in your life and with BB?

Discuss the following questions, as a group:

- What do you gain from sharing with others?
- What do others gain from hearing you share?
- What does it take to be a self-advocate and an expert on a certain subject?
- How do these two things overlap? Why are they both important?
- It's important to know your role as an empowered public speaker and being able to share a cause or a mission; learning these skills will help you to identify more speaking opportunities
- Knowing your own story is valuable; knowing how to share others' stories is exceptional



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Lunch Break

12:15am – 12:45pm

Speech Preparation

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Speech Writing Recap: 10 minutes

- Group will review elements of a speech: intro, body, and conclusion
- Will utilize worksheets and lined paper to frame speech based on the Best Buddies mission
- *Worksheet: Sharing Your Story & The Best Buddies Mission*

Writing Your Speech: 40 minutes

Materials: Worksheet and lined paper

- Speech coaches will support ambassadors to write a speech about the mission of Best Buddies and the organization's impact personally and for the community

Edit & Practice 10 minutes

Goal: For ambassadors to feel comfortable with their message and confident in the mission they are speaking to.

- Ambassadors and speech coaches will review speeches
- Make edits for consistency and clarity
- Ambassadors will practice speeches with coaches; make any changes

If time allows:

Identifying Advocacy Opportunities worksheet

- Focus of worksheet: how to identify strengths and challenge areas as an advocate; knowing your resources and supports; building connections to connect your story to the advocacy

Speech Presentations

1:45pm – 2:15pm

Wrap Up & Reminders

2:15pm – 2:30pm

- Thank everyone for learning about Best Buddies and sharing their advocacy for the mission!
- Next training:
- State Events & Reminders