About Ambassadors

Best Buddies Ambassadors are individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are committed to promoting and educating audiences about the mission, philosophy, and benefits of Best Buddies. To be considered an ambassador, one must participate in trainings offered by Best Buddies state offices and have personal experience within our programs.

Ambassadors are of all ages and backgrounds and are leaders in their schools, communities, and workplaces. By sharing their firsthand experiences with inclusion, ambassadors are the most effective messengers of the Best Buddies mission.

Best Buddies offers a fall and spring training each year and partners with local businesses and organizations, as well as community volunteers, to facilitate the training and offer individualized support with speech coaches assigned to each ambassador. At the conclusion of the training process, ambassadors are often offered the opportunity to present their speech and can build a portfolio of speeches for various occasions.

Benefits of the Ambassadors Program

Participating in the Best Buddies Ambassadors program has many benefits. Ambassadors are offered opportunities to meet new people, speak at events and share their perspective with others. Ambassadors are supported while they build their confidence and comfort level with public speaking, while enhancing their communication and presentation style. Honing these skills can benefit several aspects of their lives including building relationships and seeking employment.

Ambassador Guidelines

While representing Best Buddies as an ambassador one should embody the following qualities:

- **Attitude**: Maintain a positive perspective on their role as an ambassador and Best Buddies
- **Professionalism**: Conduct themselves in a respectful, honest, and responsible way, upholding the standards of Best Buddies
- **Experience**: Involvement in Best Buddies’ programs and attends ambassador trainings regularly
- **Humility**: Use their experience to create rapport with the audience, valuing others and allowing them to be heard
- **Appearance**: Dress and carry themself in a positive and professional manner
- **Personal Conduct**: Behave in an appropriate manner by treating people with respect and showing leadership in their daily life

If you would like to get involved and learn more about the Best Buddies Ambassadors Program, please contact your local Best Buddies office today!