

ADVOCACY TEAM CHAIR | POSITION DESCRIPTION

Accountable to & Partners with:

JDRF Advocacy staff partner, Chapter / Market Board Pres., Executive Director (ED) or Market Director (MD), and Grassroots Leadership Team (GLT) mentor.

Responsibilities Include: The Advocacy Team Chair (ATC) is JDRF Advocacy's lead volunteer organizer in each Chapter / Market. The ATC's role is to support the legislative and policy priorities set forth by JDRF Advocacy by engaging and growing the local base of advocates, taking action on alerts, building relationships with Members of Congress, participating in virtual campaigns, and sharing information on social media.

Expectations:

- Participate in monthly grassroots leader calls (held the second Wednesday of each month, 4 pm EST) to stay informed of Advocacy activities, messaging, and assignments.
- Build and manage a team of volunteers – where appropriate (they can help with advocate recruitment, event support, data management, and coordinating in-District meetings, etc).
- Communicate regularly with those who help you execute your work.
- Lead the charge locally to engage in campaigns and initiatives – Promise to Remember Me, New Member Outreach Initiative, Coverage2Control, renewal of the Special Diabetes Program, Children's Congress, etc.
- Support and help to highlight local Children's Congress Delegates through their two-year reign.
- Share action alerts and other communications via email / social media.
- Provide JDRF Advocacy updates at each Board meeting.
- Ensure JDRF Advocacy is represented at **all** events (in some fashion), and that new advocate recruitment occurs.
- Send regular email communications to local advocates using the Advocacy Data Portal (ADP); welcome new advocates within 10 days of their joining.
- Participate in JDRF Advocacy staff-led training sessions.
- Check-in regularly with JDRF Advocacy and Chapter / Market staff partners, and GLT mentor.
- Attend annual Government Day event (typically held in person) in the first quarter of each year in Washington, D.C.
- Always consider succession planning, and new ways to grow out your network!
- Since ATCs and GLTs are actively, publicly, and directly working on a bipartisan basis with Members of Congress and their staff to advance JDRF's Advocacy agenda, those in these positions cannot involve themselves or align themselves publicly with a particular political party or candidate on the state or Federal level. (Examples include holding a political fundraiser for a candidate, raising money for a candidate, donating money to a candidate under the JDRF banner, posting content on social media related to a party or candidate, wearing JDRF branded attire or having a visible JDRF banner during a political event, etc.)
- As an ATC, you represent JDRF locally, in your Chapter / Market, and with Members of Congress – in light of this, we ask that ATCs refrain from publicly representing any other patient advocacy or special interest group, because such involvement creates a conflict of interest.
- If approached by media or Congressional offices to speak on JDRF Advocacy issues (renewal of the Special Diabetes Program, insulin affordability, protections for pre-existing conditions, etc.), immediately contact your JDRF Advocacy staff partner PRIOR to confirming participation. (Resources to support you are on [MyJDRF](#).)

- As state-level legislative and policy issues arise, please share those with your JDRF Advocacy staff partner for our tracking purposes.
- To ensure that donor dollars are most effectively used to advance critical T1D research and advocacy initiatives with the greatest reach, JDRF maintains the strategic position not to engage in state-level legislative issues or litigation, and instead to focus on Federal issues with a national impact. When and where appropriate, JDRF collaborates with other organizations across the country to leverage our collective voices, but we do so with consideration of our lean staff resources and JDRF's ongoing commitment to drive our mission forward until we find cures for T1D. To preserve our strategic position and ensure alignment with established organizational objectives, JDRF Chapter / Market staff, ATCs, and GLTs should not engage in, promote, or oppose state-level legislation or litigation.

Commitment & Nomination Process: The ATC should expect to spend 8-10 hours per month serving in this role (remotely), but hours will vary depending on our priorities and activities. Candidates should be current, or in-coming Board members who are nominated to this role by the ED or MD for review by the JDRF Advocacy staff, so a decision can be made in concert together. Candidates must be equal parts 'buttoned up' and 'boots on the ground'— willing to meet with Members of Congress **and** to educate and recruit new advocates at a Walk or Summit. This position is for a one-year term, renewable up to five times (for a maximum of 6 years serving as ATC). The ATC is exempt from the expected Board financial contribution.

Skills / Experience Required:

- Interest in advocating for issues that are important to the T1D community.
- Ability to delegate tasks and manage grassroots volunteers.
- Excellent communication skills and creative problem-solving.
- Willingness to collaborate on task forces and working groups.

Training / Resources:

- In addition to the support of a [JDRF Advocacy staff partner](#), ATCs should lean on their GLT mentors, and Chapter / Market staff if they have concerns, thoughts, ideas, or need help mitigating an issue that arises through their work.
- JDRF Advocacy regularly posts resources on MyJDRF, and conducts online trainings through the year.
- Our annual Government Day conference includes research, legislative, health policy, and regulatory affairs updates, grassroots advocacy best practices information, and meetings with Congressional offices.

Benefits:

- Fulfilment from advancing our mission by mobilizing the T1D community to inform Congress and engage other key T1D stakeholders as we work together to create a world without T1D!
- Networking with like-minded, mission-driven leaders.