



Advocates Volunteer Companion Job Description

Volunteers will form relationships with individuals supported by Advocates. These individuals face many life challenges such as: developmental/intellectual disability including autism, brain injury, and/or mental health challenges. Many lack social interactions and face loneliness. They are looking for friendships. As a volunteer companion you will provide an individual with someone meaningful in their life and a relationship that fosters respect and community interaction.

Volunteer companions provide support, supervision, and socialization. Activities will be determined by the volunteer and participant.

These may include but not limited to:

- Engaging in conversation: in-person, virtually, or on the phone
- Going for walks
- Attending recreational activities
- Playing games or sharing hobbies
- Providing transportation to appointments or errands
- Helping with household tasks and/or one time assistance (such as packing).

Qualities/Skills Needed:

- Good interpersonal skills and enjoy dealing with all different types of people.
- Strong verbal and listening skills- being able to keep a conversation engaging to the individual they are supporting.
- Strong observational skills- being able to observe and note changes in any behavior they notice.
- Companions must be over 18, have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a background check including a CORI and Fingerprint. The cost of fingerprinting will be reimbursed when receipt is received by Advocates.
- Must be fully vaccinated and provide a copy of vaccination card.

Training:

Initial training will include an overview of advocates, online/ in person training on roles and responsibilities of volunteers.

Additional training specific to the individual will be completed by the participant and/or their family and staff.