



## How to Join the Ambassadors Program at Best Buddies in Illinois:

1. [Click Here](#) to complete our online application.
  - a. <https://forms.bestbuddies.org/4903690?eventId=a184P000019O8xl>
2. Email: [lanadacunningham@bestbuddies.org](mailto:lanadacunningham@bestbuddies.org), Lanada Cunningham - Program Manager, Community Engagement

### Different ways you can participate in the Ambassador Program:

- **Ambassador** – a participant with and without intellectual disabilities (IDD) who has completed official Best Buddies Ambassador trainings and is committed to promoting and educating audiences about the mission, philosophy, and benefits of Best Buddies through public speaking.
- **State Ambassador** – a participant with and without IDD who has successfully completed two ambassador training through their state ambassadors' program in one calendar year. The state evaluates and determines individuals to serve as state ambassadors for a two-year term based on benchmarks established by each state office individually.
- **Global Ambassador** – a participant with or without IDD who has completed state and national training and has been invited to advocate and share their story at a national or international event on behalf of Best Buddies International. Global Ambassadors are nominated by each state office based on their performance as a state ambassador and meeting all state ambassador guidelines. These ambassadors are chosen to represent the organization for the two-year term by the Best Buddies Leadership Team, in tandem with the state recommendations.
- **Facilitator** – Best Buddies staff person or trained volunteer who leads ambassadors training. Volunteers can consist of board members, advisors, student leaders, or a previously trained ambassador who has been selected and approved by Best Buddies staff.
- **Speech coach** – a volunteer who is paired with one ambassador for the duration of ambassadors training to assist with the writing and practicing of a speech. Speech coaches help ambassadors in areas of brainstorming, organization, and editing. Speech coaches should not be writing speeches for their matched ambassadors but serve as a guide/mentor who provides one-on-one attention as needed.
- **Ambassador Liaison** – a Best Buddies state staff member who has been appointed to oversee the Ambassadors program in their office or state; responsibilities include organizing ambassador trainings, managing all ambassador tracking online, recruiting new ambassadors, developing opportunities to further the experiences and professional development of current state ambassadors, and communicating regularly with the Best Buddies International Deputy Director, Ambassadors.

### How to become a State Ambassador:

**State Ambassadors:** State Ambassadors are participants with and without IDD who have successfully completed two training courses, through our state ambassadors program in one calendar year and have been selected by their state as a state ambassador. Once trained and selected, ambassadors are expected to identify opportunities in their chapters, communities, and states to share their stories and become more involved and empower citizens.

### Expectations each year as a State Ambassador:

- Attend at least 2 state training courses
- Identify at least 4 local or state speaking opportunities
- Attend at least 3 Best Buddies local or state events