



## Peer Connections Volunteer: Support Group Leader

### Position Overview:

Support Group Leaders provide in-person and/or virtual connection within community groups that provide emotional support, education, and peer connections. Group Leaders implement and guide peer led solution focused emotional support within their group setting while also providing organizational and logistical aspects of group facilitation and management. Group Leaders empower individuals to address MS-related life changes by providing emotional support within the peer space. Group Leaders provide a local community presence for the National MS Society.

The National MS Society is committed to embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion in everything we do. We strive to create communities and connection opportunities where everyone feels empowered to bring their true selves so we can foster a sense of authenticity and belonging.

### Qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have a connection to MS (living with MS, spouse/partner, parent, sibling, or child w/MS).
- Maintain an active email address for communication with Staff Partner and group members.
- Ability to manage individuals, group dynamics and meeting agendas.
- Strong listening and communication skills; empathic listener and a desire to help others.
- Willingness to become knowledgeable about Society resources.
- Successfully complete a background check following initial volunteer screening/every 3 years.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Serve as a positive representative of and liaison to the Society within the community.
- Provide an authentically safe and inclusive space that aligns with the Society's [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion principles](#) where participants can share their common lived experience.
- Adherence, at all times, to the Society's [Inclusion Policy](#).
- Adherence to all Society policies & guidelines provided on the [Resources for Peer Connections Volunteers](#) webpage.
- Ensure that group meets in accessible and appropriate meeting space; determine meeting schedule; and communicate with group members in between scheduled meetings.
- Together, with group members, plan and implement meeting agendas, welcome new members, encourage participation and facilitate group discussions.
- Communicate regularly with assigned Staff Partner consistently and respectfully.
- Work with Staff Partner annually to complete volunteer compliance requirements.

**Required Volunteer Training:**

- Complete new leader training series via on-demand virtual learning modules. Training topics include a National MS Society overview, Group Leadership, and Challenging Conversations & Crisis Support.
- Complete annual group leader renewal training to continue building volunteer skills and hear Society updates.

**Time Commitment:**

- Uphold meeting cadence as agreed upon with Staff Partner.
- Communication with group members and potential group members in between regularly scheduled meetings. Leaders are encouraged to set realistic limits on the time they spend during the month communicating with group members outside of the group meeting. Time required will vary if there is shared leadership within the group.
- Minimum 1-year commitment.

**Benefits:**

- Ongoing correspondence and support from Staff Partner, including monthly e-newsletter.
- Ongoing volunteer development opportunities.
- Yearly stipend for group related activities.
- Access to group promotional materials, including flyers and business cards.
- Ongoing access to numerous volunteer resources, community resources and educational toolkits via the [Resources for Peer Connections Volunteers](#) webpage.
- Ongoing networking opportunities with other group leaders, including access to peer support through the virtual MS Warrior Leaders Support Group & the National MS Society Peer Connections Volunteers Facebook group.