



OSLHA PALS Program Details & Eligibility Requirements

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Ohio Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSLHA) is pleased to announce that we have been awarded an ASHA Student Advocacy Grant for 2017. In an effort to promote student participation in advocacy and leadership activities, OSLHA would like to extend an opportunity to undergraduate and graduate students in Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD), Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs in the state of Ohio to apply for the OSLHA Program of Advocacy & Leadership for Students (PALS). The PALS provides OSLHA with an opportunity to mentor two students from each of the CSD undergraduate and/or SLP and Aud graduate programs in Ohio.

Participation in OSLHA PALS will be an excellent opportunity for students to experience advocacy at a grass roots level. By guiding the students through a directed program, the students will experience firsthand the impact of advocating for our professions. The goal is to foster an understanding and commitment to advocacy, so that minimally, these students will have a greater appreciation of the importance of advocacy at a state and national level. It would be wonderful if these students ultimately become active in their state organization and/or ASHA as they advance into their professional careers.

PROGRAM DETAILS

We are asking for your assistance in identifying students from your program that may be interested in developing advocacy and leadership skills. The students can be undergraduate juniors or seniors and/or graduate students in audiology or speech-language pathology. Once accepted into the OSLHA PALS the following process will occur:

1. Each student will take online advocacy training via the OSLHA website and pass the quiz with at least 80% accuracy by August 25th.
2. Upon passing the quiz, each student will be assigned 3 Ohio legislators from their geographic area.
3. Students will be asked to send an invitation to each of their assigned legislators, requesting their attendance at the OSHGAC Legislative Reception Event that will be held at the Columbus State House on October 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The students will be given templates and/or written samples of the invitation and be instructed to send the invitations no later than September 5th.
4. Students will be asked to send a follow-up email between September 25 - 29 to each legislator prompting them to attend the legislative reception.
5. The program leader will ask for volunteers from the selected group of participating students to design an informational sheet or advertising material focused on advocacy to distribute at the legislative reception.
6. The students will be expected to attend the October 10th event. The cost of attendance to the event will be covered by the grant funding.
7. Talking points will be distributed prior to the event to all PALS participants.
8. The students will write a post-event thank you note to the legislators who attended by October 25th. The students will be given templates and/or written samples of thank you notes to guide them in their writing.
9. Upon completion and submission of an evaluation of the PALS program, students will be given a \$10 gasoline gift card as a thank you. The cost of the gift card will be deducted from the grant funding, as well.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application requirements into the OSLHA PALS, include the following:

1. Student Name
2. Student Mail/Email
3. Student Phone Number
4. University and Program Name
5. Undergraduate or Graduate Student
6. UG students – state if Junior or Senior in an SLP or Aud program
7. Graduate students - state if Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology and what year (1st, 2nd, 3rd year)
8. A typed single-spaced page essay limited to 750 words focusing on: “Why advocacy is important/vital to the Professions of Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology”?

Ideally, we would like student representation from each CSD, Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology program in the state of Ohio to be selected for a grand total of 32 students participating in PALS. If submissions are limited from a university program, more selections may be made from the received applicants to ensure 32 participants.

Please have your interested students complete the attached form and email it to us at this email address by **May 30th, 2017**. Students will be notified of their participation in this event no later than July 31, 2017.

Advocacy@ohioslha.org

Thank you in advance for your support. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments at the email address above.

Sincerely, your co-coordinators for OSLHA PALS:

Terri Hollenkamp, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of Legislative Advocacy, OSLHA

Carney Sotto, PhD CCC-SLP
Past President, OSLHA 2014-15