



New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project & Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

A program of The Arc of New Jersey since 1983

Promoting Advocacy and Independence for People
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Self-Advocate Fall 2025

[A Newsletter Produced by the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project Team](#)



PLAY YOUR PART

THE 41ST ANNUAL NJSSAN FALL CONFERENCE

10.03.25

Pines Manor
2085 Lincoln Hwy., Edison, NJ 08817

**FRIDAY,
October 3rd, 2025**
The 41st Annual
NJSSAN Fall Conference

Included in this issue of *The Self-Advocate*:

Registration for the Fall Conference

T-Shirt Fundraiser

Conference Schedule

Recent & Upcoming Events

2025 Council Calendars

REGISTRATION

Click here to register. Tickets are \$75 and required for all attendees, including staff.

**Registration Deadline: September 26, 2025
Tickets are limited, so buy now!**

Sponsorship Opportunities are also available on our website.

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP) and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) work together to host the annual Fall Conference. This event is an opportunity for Disability Advocates to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and attend professional development workshops.

The theme of our 2025, in-person, conference will be "Play Your Part". The Advisory Board members of the NJSSAN picked this topic to bring awareness that every person is a vital part of advocacy as a whole. Advocacy is stronger when we all speak up together and everyone 'plays their part'!

During our opening session we will hear from some amazing speakers (details to come). There will also be an exhibitor hall, a Keynote speaker, a panel led by members of our NJSSAN, and the Conference will end with a dance party/networking session. DJ Redline will be the DJ for our dance party/networking session. Exhibitors will also be available throughout the conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



This year, we are honored to welcome self-advocate Patrice Jetter as our keynote speaker. Patrice Jetter is a New Jersey native, accomplished athlete, and fierce advocate for disability rights. With over 100 Special Olympics medals, Patrice has excelled in bocce, bowling, cheerleading, figure skating, and gymnastics—proving that determination knows no limits.

Beyond sports, Patrice is a mentor, self-advocate, and activist fighting for marriage equality for people with disabilities. She is the heart of the Emmy-nominated documentary *Patrice: The Movie*, a Hulu documentary that sheds light on the challenges couples with disabilities face.

Her journey—from overcoming bullying and institutionalization to becoming a champion for inclusion—is nothing short of inspiring. Patrice reminds us all that everyone deserves the right to love, live, and thrive without barriers.

T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The Advisory Board of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) is holding a t-shirt fundraiser through Bonfire.com

[If you'd like to purchase a shirt to commemorate the event and support the NJSSAN: click here!](#)

All funds raised directly benefit the NJSSAN, New Jersey's largest self-advocacy organization.

Shirts are \$25 each and will be shipped directly to you! The Premium Unisex Tee is a standard fit crewneck t-shirt. Typically made with a 60/40 blend of cotton and poly that is combed and ring-spun, it is a lightweight tee with a super soft feel. It comes in sizes XS-4XL.

PLEASE NOTE: Shirts are only available for purchase online but we can assist you in doing so at the event.



[Click here to purchase](#)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Registration and Exhibitor hall

9:30 AM - 10:05 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:05 AM - 11:05 AM: Keynote Speech

11:05 AM - 11:35 AM: NJSSAN Panel

11:35 AM - 1:00 PM: Lunch, Dancing, & Networking

*Schedule times are tentative and may change as we get closer to the event.

OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

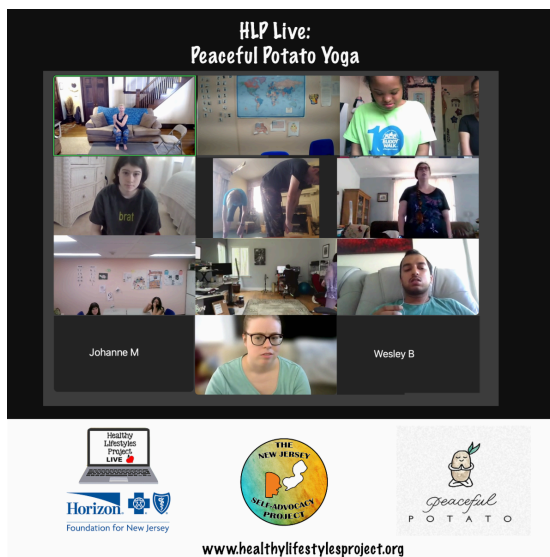
[NJSAP Webinars](#)

We present webinars on a variety of topics every Tuesday at 2 PM. Watch our recorded webinars online including topics like [Disability Pride and Anti-Ableism](#).



[Healthy Lifestyles Project: LIVE!](#)

Our [Healthy Lifestyle Project:LIVE](#) events continue on Zoom! Each Wednesday at 11 AM and Friday at 1 PM, we host a live, interactive event that promotes healthy living, such as our yoga class with Peaceful Potato.



[Brain Games](#)

During [Brain Games](#), we host live, interactive board games with the NJSAP Team for you to test your creativity and knowledge and to have fun!

Join us on Zoom every Thursday at 1PM for fun games like Two Truths and a Lie.



View our weekly schedule of events below and download the graphic with clickable links to each offering!

MY WEEK WITH NEW JERSEY SELF-ADVOCACY PROJECT

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Check social media feed for Veronica's new nutrition video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Watch an NJSAP webinar at 2 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Interactive Zoom event for HLP: Live at 11 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Play this week's Brain Game on Zoom at 1 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Check social media feed for a "Speak Your Mind" post!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Check social media feed for a "Quick Tip" post	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Watch Peaceful Potato's Pot Pourri video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Check social media feed for IHT's new workout video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Watch Malik's creative new art video!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-HLP: Live! It's Fitness Friday with IHT on Zoom at 1 PM

TO DO LIST:

- Sign up for NJSAP's email list
- Request a virtual group training
- Join your monthly local NJSSAN Council Meeting
- Participate in an advocacy campaign or Action Alert

REMINDERS + NOTES:

- Select Tuesdays at 11 AM
- Winter: "Empowered" D&D Adventures
- Summer: "Trailblazers" Movement Club
- NJSAP Wrap-Up: Facebook Live updates the 1st Monday of the month at 9:30 AM
- Check out our website for more information and additional activities and campaigns!

THE NEW JERSEY SELF-ADVOCACY PROJECT

YouTube Find out more at www.njsselfadvocacyproject.org

Facebook: @NewJerseySAP / Instagram: @NewJerseySAP / Twitter: @NJSAP / Youtube: @NJSAP

Thank you to [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#), for providing the grant that funds Healthy Lifestyles Project events!

Horizon



The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

NJSSAN COUNCIL CALENDAR

Click the image below to download the full calendar of our monthly NJSSAN Council meetings!

[You can view more NJSSAN Council Information here.](#)

2025

January	February	March
1. January 16 2. January 23 3. January 14 4.5. January 15 AB. January 27	1. February 20 2. February 27 3. February 11 4.5. February 19	1. March 20 2. March 27 3. March 11 4.5. March 19 AB. March 31
April	May	June
1. April 17 2. April 24 3. April 08 4.5. April 16	1. May 15 2. May 22 3. May 13 4.5. May 21 AB. May 19	1. June 19 2. June 26 4.5. June 18
July	August	September
1. July 17 2. July 24 3. July 8 AB. July 28	3. August 12 4.5. August 20	1. September 18 2. September 25 3. September 09 4.5. September 17 AB. September 29
October	November	December
1. October 16 2. October 23 3. October 14 4.5. October 15	1. November 20 2. November 20 3. November 11 4.5. November 19 AB. November 24	

NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK

COUNCIL 1 3rd Thursday of each month*, 5:30-6:45pm Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex & Warren Advisor: Frankie Bayak Fbayak@ArcNJ.org/732-749-8514
COUNCIL 2 4th Thursday of each month*, 4-5:30pm Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union Advisor: Erin Smithers ESmithers@ArcNJ.org/732-246-2525, ext. 26
COUNCIL 3 2nd Tuesday of each month*, 5:30-7pm Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean & Somerset Advisor: Bianca Najera BNajera@ArcNJ.org/732-246-2525, ext. 37
COUNCILS 4 & 5 3rd Wednesday of each month*, 3-4pm Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem Atlantic, Cape May, & Cumberland Counties Contact Erin or Frankie as as seen above
NJSSAN ADVISORY BOARD Last Monday, every other month* Only Open to Advisory Board Members

* Check the calendar image for exact dates

For more information, contact: Frankie Bayak
NJSAP@ArcNJ.org / 732-749-8514
www.njselfadvocacyproject.org

For more information check us out online at
<http://www.njselfadvocacyproject.org>

Don't forget to follow us on social media:
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#)



NJ Self-Advocacy Project | 985 Livingston Avenue | North Brunswick, NJ 08902 US

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