

## What is Kids As Self Advocates?

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Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) is a national grassroots network of youth with disabilities and our friends. We are leaders in our communities, and we help spread helpful, positive information among our peers to increase knowledge around various issues related to transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Those issues include: living with disabilities, disability rights and culture, health care, school, work and many more.

We also help health care professionals, policymakers and other adults in our communities understand issues that affect youth with disabilities. We participate in conversations about how to help each other succeed.

KASA is led by a National Youth Advisory Board of youth between 13-24. Other ways to be involved include the KASA Task Force of youth ages 12-18 or by becoming a KASA network member.



## Become a Member of KASA



### We want you to join!

Anyone who wants to learn more about youth disability issues can join KASA.

To join is only a small fee [and free for youth] which gives you lifetime access to our listserv, discounts on materials and more!

Sign up at: [www.fvkasa.org](http://www.fvkasa.org)

### KASA's Theory of Change

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We are working toward a day when young people with disabilities will have control over their own lives and futures.

We do this by:

- informing youth about their rights
- providing peer support and training
- changing systems to include us

## Mission

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Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) is created by youth with disabilities for youth to educate society about issues concerning us. KASA believes in self-determination, creating support networks and self-advocacy for all youth with disabilities in our society.

## Values

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KASA upholds the following values:

- we educate others about our issues
- we provide and expect equal opportunities
- we focus on disability pride, culture and current issues
- we promote independence and interdependence
- we give and expect respect
- we believe in self-advocacy for youth and young adults with disabilities
- we believe in self-determination
- we believe youth organizations, projects and activities should be youth-run



## Current Projects

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- Develop informational sheets and “how to” sheets about important issues—for youth, by youth
- Collect youth resources on the web
- Advise projects as experts on youth issues
- Speak at national conferences
- Participate in web forums
- Serve on national and local boards and committees
- Participate in strategic planning and learn new skills
- Translate materials into youth-friendly language and format
- Create reports and toolkits on issues that affect us

## Resources

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**KASA offers information and resources on the following topics:**

- Civil Rights and Advocacy
- Disability Culture and History
- Dating and Relationships
- Education/School
- Health Care
- Art and Poetry — KASA Café
- Current Events — the latest in what’s going on in policy and the news
- Prevention and Recovery
- Recreation, Leisure and Sports
- Staying Safe
- Technology
- Transportation
- Work
- Working with a Group

## Website

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You can visit, access our resources, participate in forums and sign up for membership on our website:

**[www.fvkasa.org](http://www.fvkasa.org)**

If you are a youth or young adult who has a disability, we want to hear from you!

Become a KASA member today and become part of a national community of young people with disabilities!

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*KASA provides workshops and presentations on a variety of topics. For more information, see “KASA’s Guide to Presentations and Technical Assistance” brochure on our website, or request a copy today!*

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## Youth Voices



“Being a part of KASA has given me the space to accept myself and be proud of my disability, which is a part of who I am.” –KASA youth member

“KASA is fun and serious... I like the joking. We discuss about rights for people with disabilities. I like that everyone gives input.” - KASA youth member



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