



autism speaks®

South Florida Area Executive Leadership Council (ELC)

Overview

Autism Speaks is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow. We are dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

Engaged and committed leadership volunteers working nationwide are vital to achieving this mission. Executive Leadership Councils play an integral role in raising funds, growing new relationships, and advancing Autism Speaks' mission objectives. Council members are high-caliber leadership volunteers who partner with staff to move the mission of Autism Speaks forward.

Purpose

The purpose of the Executive Leadership Council is to advance the mission and income goals of Autism Speaks in Key Markets across the country. Aligned with the nationwide Autism Speaks business plan, the ELC offers members the opportunity to lead revenue-generating initiatives, as well as partner on priority programs and advocacy efforts.

The ELC structure provides volunteer leaders the opportunity to work together in implementing key initiatives and supporting staff in identifying, recruiting, and cultivating community influencers. ELC members serve as representatives of Autism Speaks at the market level and play a key role in connecting Autism Speaks to new individual and corporate relationships.

Members are influential leaders who possess diverse skill sets, experience, and perspectives, and have a strong commitment to the mission of Autism Speaks and the autism community. ELC members reflect the professional, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the market in which they serve. With this diversity as foundation, the ELC provides strategic counsel and support to ensure broad reach and success of the mission-delivery and fundraising efforts of Autism Speaks.

Structure

Autism Speaks is one single, unified organization nationwide, governed by a national board of directors. The Executive Leadership Councils are non-fiduciary, non-governing groups who are critical to achieving organizational goals at the Market level. Autism Speaks staff oversee and manage the work of the ELC. Council members and staff work together to ensure alignment with the national business plan and the Market's strategic plan. A successful partnership between staff and volunteer leaders is a key factor to overall success locally and nationwide.



Member Responsibilities

ELC members are charged with:

1. Advancing the annual revenue and mission objectives of Autism Speaks as defined by the national business plan and market strategic plan.
1. Utilizing both personal and professional spheres of influence to open doors to new corporate and community relationships.
2. Representing Autism Speaks in the community to increase both understanding and acceptance of autism and the impact of Autism Speaks.
3. Committing to an annual give/get fundraising goal.
4. Assisting with local annual recognition and awards
5. Identifying, recruiting, and orienting new members and adherence to set term limits.

New Member Recruitment

A key responsibility of ELC membership is actively participating in the annual new member recruitment and nominating process. A Volunteer Leadership Recruitment and Development Committee (VLRDC) lead by the ELC Chair-Elect, is responsible for interviewing and vetting prospective new ELC members; and may also include Autism Speaks staff and the ELC member who nominated the prospect. The Chair-elect will present new member prospect slate to full Council membership with a formal motion for approval.

Annual Contribution Commitment

Executive Leadership Council members commit to an annual “give/get” revenue requirement set by Autism Speaks lead staff in conjunction with Council leadership. This financial requirement reflects the Council’s commitment to raising the critical funds needed to fulfill Autism Speaks’ mission.

Committee Participation

Volunteer committees are key to the success of Autism Speaks events and other local priorities. Autism Speaks Staff and Council leadership will determine the best way to link local committees with the ELC. In some cases, an event chair may also serve as a member of the ELC; in other cases, an event chair may serve as an ex officio member of the Council. The most important element is ensuring that local committees are aligned with and have good communication with both staff and the ELC.

Annual ELC Evaluation & Planning

Conducting annual assessment/evaluation and planning are essential elements in maintaining and preserving a strong and diverse ELC membership and overall achievement of goals and objectives. Autism Speaks staff and Council leadership work together to ensure this annual process is established and managed effectively.

Term Limits

Council member terms are for a duration of two years and may be renewed for an additional two-year term as determined and approved by Council Chair and Autism Speaks Staff. Members who have completed two consecutive terms (four years total) will be required to take a minimum of one-year hiatus prior to being eligible to be nominated.



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Supporting Documents

- Member Position Profiles
- Member Commitment Form
- ELC Organizational Chart