



Peer Counselor/Advocate Application

In order to volunteer as peer counselor/advocate, you must complete the training developed by the RC/AVSC. The training addresses the impact of various forms of sexual violence on survivors and their communities. It introduces crisis intervention, peer-counseling, and advocacy skills in nine Friday sessions. The trainers are clinicians associated with the counseling services at Barnard and Columbia and the Center's Coordinator.

All peer counselors/advocates help the RC/AVSC provide: peer counseling in person and on the phone every evening from 7-11pm and advocacy 24 hours-a-day. After successful completion of the training and certification you will be prepared and expected to do both. Peer counselors/advocates are expected to cover one to two peer counseling shifts (2 hours/each) at the Center, one 24-hour beeper shift a week and to attend weekly 1 hour supervision meetings. Peer Counselor/Advocates also attend periodic on-going trainings. All volunteers attend the regularly schedule monthly meeting. Additionally, peer counselors/advocates are encouraged, though not required, to be a member of a working group that helps organize the Center or plan events. During the training, it is suggested that everyone be a member of a working group.

If you have any questions about the training process, please call the RC/AVSC at 212-854-4366 or email Anna Tekippe, Program Coordinator, at art2110@columbia.edu

To be eligible to participate in the trainings, you must be:

1. a woman.
2. able to commit to working, beginning next semester for a minimum of three semesters (not necessarily consecutively).
3. able to commit 5 to 10 hours a week to the Center (in addition to carrying beeper).
4. able to attend all training sessions and to participate in a working group.
5. comfortable with our Values Statement (visit www.health.columbia.edu/docs/services/rc_avsc).

Please answer the questions on the following pages. All information is kept confidentially -- only the trainers will read it. If there is any question you do not want to answer, please skip it. If you need more space, please attach additional paper.



Volunteer Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

School and Year: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ National Origin: _____

Languages spoken: _____

Race/ethnicity (optional): _____

Circle and/or describe

African Descent Asian Pacific Islander Caucasian Latina Multiracial Native

Sexual Orientation (optional): _____

Circle and/or describe

Bisexual Lesbian Heterosexual Questioning

Special Needs: _____

Interested in: Peer Outreach/Education Peer Counselor/Advocate Special Events

Hours Available: _____



1. What prompted your interest in this training?
2. Have you previously done peer counseling or education? Please explain.
3. What experiences, education, or interests have prepared you for work at the Center?
4. Please describe a situation in which you feel you helped or supported someone through a crisis. What did you say and do and how did the person respond?
5. What do you know about sexual abuse and how it affects women from diverse backgrounds?



6. Have you had any experiences living or working with people who are very different from yourself? Please describe what you learned.

7. Do you identify as a survivor of sexual violence? (If no, please skip to 9)

8. How have you dealt with your experience?

9. Do you have a friend or family member who is a survivor of violence? (If no, skip to 11).

10. How have you helped them deal with their experience?



11. What is your impression of life as a Barnard or Columbia student?

12. Do you belong to any campus or community organizations, sororities or fraternities, or do you do any community service? Please describe.

13. What are your concerns, if any, about the training and/or about being a peer counselor/advocate?

14. Do you have any questions for the trainers or is there anything else you would like to know?

Thank you! We will contact you if we have any questions and to let you know about the location of the training. Please feel free to call us (x44366) if you have questions before you hear from us.