

## Walk to Cure Arthritis Advocacy Volunteer Guide

### Your Mission:

Ask participants to sign up as an Arthritis Foundation Advocate by sharing their story with members of Congress. Advocates tell their stories to lawmakers and receive a monthly newsletter with advocacy updates. This activity will help engage Advocates from the first moment they sign up; the stories they share here will be delivered directly to their elected officials in Washington, DC. A strong, empowered Advocate network ensures that the voices of people with arthritis will be heard in state capitals and on Capitol Hill.

### Why It's Important:

Our state and federal lawmakers need to hear about how arthritis impacts the lives of their constituents so that they can make policies that increase access to care. Even though arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States, many people don't realize the everyday impact the disease can have, including our Members of Congress. It's our job to teach them—the petitions that you collect will be used to educate elected officials on Capitol Hill about arthritis and urge them to support patient centered step therapy reform.

### What to do:

- Welcome participants to your booth! An engaging advocacy volunteer is available and in front of their booth to encourage foot traffic toward your materials. You can even carry a clipboard and pen to interact more easily with large crowds. Please be sure to have at least one volunteer at the advocacy table at all times.
- **IMPORTANT: Make sure attendees put down BOTH their email and their mailing address.** By providing the Arthritis Foundation both details, new advocates will be matched with their exact elected officials and able to fully participate in our email based grassroots advocacy efforts!
- Sign-ups also need to be print in big letters so that they are **legible** – if you can't read a sign up, ask them to clarify the spelling so they don't miss out on alerts.
- Nervous about drawing people to the table? Check out the suggested ice breakers. These icebreakers are a great brainstorming tool for participants to help them decide how best to frame their story.
- Don't be afraid to share your own story, it will help participants feel more comfortable sharing theirs. Your advocacy story might even be the reason someone becomes an advocate themselves!

### Ice Breakers:

- "What motivated you to attend Walk to Cure Arthritis this year? I am here at WTCA because..."
- Have you or a family member ever had an issue in accessing your prescription?
- Have you or a family member experienced step therapy?

### Legislative Ask :

Our goal is to support **step therapy reform** to make sure that patients can access the prescription their provider prescribed. Signatures on this petition tell Congress to support patient-centered legislation that breaks down barriers to care.

### After the Event:

Please pack up your Advocacy materials and return them to the Arthritis Foundation staff. For extra credit, please type the sign ups into an excel sheet with separate columns for first name, last name, street address, city, state, zip code, and email address. From there, the Arthritis Foundation staff will enroll our newest Arthritis Foundation Advocates and disseminate their messages to Capitol Hill!