



# ADVOCACY TRAINING BOOT CAMP

Fri. July 24th | 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Orlando, FL | 2026 NDSC Convention

Advocacy Training Boot Camp 2026 is sponsored by Microsoft



Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
8:00 AM - 8:10 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Jim Hudson</b> <i>NDSC Executive Director, OH</i> <b>Hannah LaCour</b> <i>NDSC Self-Advocate Board Member, LA</i>
8:10 AM - 8:25 AM	<b>Engaging with Elected Officials: How to Get Started</b>	<b>Jawanda Mast</b> <i>NDSC Grassroots Advocacy Manager, KS</i>
8:25 AM - 8:40 AM	<b>How to Include Self-Advocate Voices and Make an Impactful One-Pager</b>	<b>Adrian Forsythe</b> <i>NDSC Policy &amp; Advocacy Assistant, MD</i>
8:40 AM - 9:05 AM	<b>How to Tell Your Story So It Leads to Action</b>	<b>Stephanie Meredith, Ph.D.</b> <i>Parent Advocate, GA</i>
9:05 AM - 9:25 AM	<b>How to Engage, Empower, and Partner with Diverse Communities for Policy Change</b>	<b>Taryn Fletcher, Ed.D.</b> <i>Parent Advocate, DE</i>
9:25 AM - 9:40 AM	<b>The Game Show: NDSC Policy Trivia with Prizes</b>	<b>Micah Rothkopf</b> <i>NDSC Policy &amp; Advocate Associate, VA</i> <b>Stormie Zanfordino</b> <i>Self-Advocate, MD</i>
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM	<b>BREAK</b>	
9:50 AM - 10:10 AM	<b>Understanding State Advocacy: How to Follow the Money</b>	<b>Roxane Romanick</b> <i>Parent Advocate, ND</i> <b>Elizabeth Romanick</b> <i>Self-Advocate, ND</i>
10:10 AM - 10:35 AM	<b>Role Play: How to Have an Effective Meeting with an Elected Official: What Works and What Doesn't Work</b> <i>Role play scenarios featuring self-advocates and advocates.</i>	<b>Jawanda Mast</b> <i>NDSC Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Narrator, KS</i> <b>Patricia Ehrle</b> <i>Parent Advocate, LA</i> <b>Micah Rothkopf</b> <i>NDSC Policy &amp; Advocacy Associate, VA</i> <b>Self-Advocates:</b> <b>Craig Blackburn (LA), Kellyn Donahoe (OH), Paige Faucheux (LA), Jocelyn Gaines (NC), Petra Mark (MI), Rachel Mast (KS)</b>
10:35 AM - 11:05 AM	<b>The Power of Staff for Building Advocacy</b>	<b>Stephanie Smith Lee</b> <i>NDSC Policy &amp; Advocacy Co-Director, Moderator, NC</i> <b>Candace Whiting</b> <i>Self-Advocate, Moderator, FL</i> <b>Sarah Mueller</b> <i>Disability Policy Director to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Minority Staff, DC</i> <b>Jenn Sikora</b> <i>Former Legislative Director to Rep. Bill McCollum (R-FL)</i>
11:05 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>You've Got the Tools. Now What? Question &amp; Answer</b>	<b>Heather Sachs</b> <i>NDSC Policy &amp; Advocacy Co-Director, MD</i>