



BEST BUDDIES CHAPTER PARTNERSHIP GUIDE

PURPOSE

This guide has been created in conjunction with Best Buddies International to provide the men of Pi Kappa Phi the tools necessary to connect with existing Best Buddies chapters, to establish new Best Buddies chapters, and take advantage of opportunities that promote the mission of both Best Buddies and The Ability Experience.

ABOUT BEST BUDDIES

Best Buddies International is the world's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing opportunities for friendship, employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through the creation of meaningful, lasting one-to-one friendships with peers without disabilities and the promotion of integrated employment opportunities, Best Buddies is changing the world one friendship and one job at a time.

Best Buddies serves as a lifeline to the joy of having lifelong friendships, improving leadership skills, securing successful jobs, and feeling valued by society. People and employers without IDD who engage in Best Buddies programs help change prejudicial stereotypes, find common ground, and promote the integration of people with IDD.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To be matched in a one-to-one friendship all students must:

- Have the desire and ability to form a mutually enriching friendship.
- Attend global volunteer training conducted by the chapter leadership prior to being matched. (Best Buddies staff will provide the training curriculum to all chapter leaders of approved Best Buddies expansion chapters.)

To fulfill the role of peer buddy/buddy and remain in good standing, all students must:

- Plan outings with their peer buddy/buddy twice a month.
- Contact their peer buddy/buddy once a week (by phone, e-mail, social media, or in person).
- Attend all chapter meetings and group activities with their peer buddy/buddy.
- Honor the one-to-one commitment for an entire academic year.
- Complete a monthly friendship update to report weekly contact and monthly activities on Best Buddies Online.

CONNECTING WITH AN EXISTING BEST BUDDIES CHAPTER

There are 83 campuses where both Best Buddies and Pi Kappa Phi have a chapter. See *Appendix A* to find out if your campus has an existing Best Buddies chapter. If so, contact the state director for your state (*Appendix B*.) If there is no state director, contact chapterservices@abilityexperience.org to be connected with the appropriate Best Buddies staff.

STEPS TO ESTABLISH A NEW BEST BUDDIES CHAPTER

1. Speak with Best Buddies Staff

- Contact the Best Buddies State Director to discuss the expectations and timeline. State Directors are listed in *Appendix B* of this guide. If there is no state director for your state, contact chapterservices@abilityexperience.org to be connected with the appropriate Best Buddies staff.

2. Identify Key Players and Host Site

- Chapter president: student who will lead the chapter
- Faculty advisor: school staff who will support the chapter
- Host site coordinator: staff from host site who will coordinate members with IDD
- The host site: an organization in the area that serves adults with disabilities with whom students will be matched. Information on securing a host site can be found by reviewing our host site resource.

3. Garner Interest

Spread the exciting word that Best Buddies is coming to town! Identify officers and people with and without IDD who want to be matched in a one-to-one friendship.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH BEST BUDDIES

Spread the Word to End the Word

Best Buddies, Special Olympics, and supporters from around the world will unite on Spread the Word to End the Word® day to continue building awareness for society to stop and think about its use of the R-word and rally people around the world to pledge respect toward all individuals, making the world a more accepting and inclusive place for all people, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through engagement with schools, organizations and communities, Spread the Word to End the Word highlights the harmful effects the word "retard(ed)" has on the millions of people with IDD, their families and friends.

Annual Leadership Conference

The Best Buddies International Leadership Conference brings together leaders with and without IDD from middle schools, high schools, and colleges worldwide, providing personalized trainings to develop skills needed to organize a Best Buddies chapter. For the past 25 years, Leadership Conference has inspired thousands of leaders to be Best Buddies advocates and bring about social change in their communities

Team Best Buddies Endurance Program

Team Best Buddies (TBB) is an endurance event program that enables athletes of all abilities to dedicate their training and participation in marathons, triathlons, cycling, and other endurance events to the life-changing movement of inclusion.

For more opportunities, please visit www.bestbuddies.org.

CHAPTER TESTIMONIES

Evan Cohen - ALPHA CHI (Univ. of Miami)

As a leader in both the fraternity of Pi Kappa Phi and of Best Buddies, I have seen a dramatically positive shift in attitude and understanding among both populations. By bringing together very different groups of people, I was able to witness a uniform sense of inclusion, regardless of background or appearance. Both organizations try to instill the acceptance and understanding of others, which was obvious to witness through the overall camaraderie at our conjoined events. At the end of the day, we are all human, no one person better or worse than another, simply different in the greatest sense of the word.

Mark Boulas - IOTA LAMBDA (Quinnipiac University)

What I love most about our relationship with Best Buddies is how reciprocal our relationship is. We benefit tremendously from having the exposure to people with disabilities and from the opportunity to participate in community service on our very own campus. Likewise, Best Buddies has a consistent group of men to volunteer and participate in their events, and even have personal relationships with some of the buddies. Our commitment to each other has grown exponentially in the past few months, and will hopefully continue to grow and prosper.

Nicholas Damren - THETA MU (UMass Amherst)

Our relationship with the Best Buddies of Massachusetts has been rewarding, both for our brothers and their organization likewise. It allows us the opportunity to connect with the people that we are fundraising for and also give us a feel for where the donations we raise are going.

Michael Lane - THETA RHO (Western Michigan)

Best Buddies and Pi Kappa Phi have been impacted by each other because it has expanded our horizons and allowed us to interact more with the community and people invested in the same purpose as us. Being able to plan events together has not only allowed more people coming out to the events, but spreading our mission of inclusion and disability awareness to people on campus and in the community.

Sean Tait - THETA ZETA (George Washington)

Interacting with Best Buddies gave us a first-hand look at what people with disabilities deal with every day. With ability ranging from mild to severe, playing games with and talking to the buddies gave some perspective to how much the smallest of deeds can help. The chapter as well as the Best Buddies organization had a great time and will continue to interact in the future.

APPENDIX A: EXISTING BEST BUDDIES CHAPTERS

Alabama

Auburn University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at
Birmingham

Arizona

Arizona State University
Northern Arizona University

California

Univ. of California - Berkeley
Univ. of California - Davis
Univ. of California - Irvine
Univ. of California - LA
Univ. of San Francisco
Univ. of Southern California

Colorado

Colorado State University
Univ. of Colorado-Boulder
Univ. of Northern Colorado

Connecticut

Quinnipiac University
Sacred Heart

Delaware

University of Delaware

Florida

Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of South Florida
University of Tampa

Georgia

Georgia College & State Univ.
Georgia Southern University

Illinois

Bradley University
Illinois State University
Northern Illinois University
University of Illinois
Western Illinois University

Indiana

Ball State University
Indiana University
Purdue University

Iowa

Drake University
Iowa State University
University of Iowa

Kansas

University of Kansas

Kentucky

Morehead State University
University of Kentucky

Louisiana

Louisiana State University
McNeese State University

Massachusetts

Univ. of Massachusetts at
Amherst

Maryland

University of Maryland
Baltimore County

Michigan

Central Michigan University
Michigan State University
University of Michigan
Western Michigan University

Mississippi

Ole Miss

North Carolina

Duke University
Elon University
UNC - Chapel Hill

New Hampshire

Univ. of New Hampshire

Nevada

University of Nevada - Reno
UNLV

New York

Cornell University

Ohio

Miami University Ohio
Ohio State University
University of Dayton
University of Toledo

Pennsylvania

Penn State University
University of Pittsburgh
West Chester University

South Carolina

College of Charleston
University of South Carolina
Wofford College

Tennessee

Middle Tennessee State Univ.

Texas

Baylor University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Texas Tech University
University of Houston
University of North Texas
University of Texas Austin

Virginia

Virginia Tech University
Roanoke College
University of Virginia
James Madison University
George Mason University

Washington D.C.

American University
George Washington University

If there is no Best Buddies chapter on your campus, contact the state director for your state. If there is no state director for your state, please contact chapterservices@abilityexperience.org to be connected with the appropriate Best Buddies staff member.

**APPENDIX B:
BEST BUDDIES STATE DIRECTORS**

Arizona

Timothy Bolen
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Phoenix, AZ

California

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Milwaukee, WI

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