



**amputee  
coalition**<sup>™</sup>

A donor-supported nonprofit

# Becoming a Certified Peer Visitor

Once they have adjusted to limb loss or limb difference, many people want to find ways to provide support to others facing similar experiences. In 1993, the Amputee Coalition launched a Peer Visitor training program to help people acquire and practice the skills that are the hallmark of providing professional support.



In addition to an eight-hour training course, the Amputee Coalition provides:

- Materials to share with someone new to amputation, their family and caregivers
- Ongoing support via a private Facebook group
- Training material updates
- Peer support matching services
- Tools to track and report peer visits.

Our peer support staff are experienced professionals, and are available to offer coaching and counsel too.

Certified Peer Visitor (CPV) training is based on best practices from leading support services as well as feedback from decades of working with people affected by limb loss. This professionally developed material includes:

- Communicating and listening effectively
- Remaining neutral throughout the peer support process
- Identifying and responding to the phases of emotional adjustment
- Understanding the role and boundaries of being a peer visitor
- Recognizing the elements of recovery
- Practicing skills through mock peer visits
- Undergoing a criminal background check.

Once you are certified, you may be called upon for visits via the phone or in person, typically when your background or geography is a close match to the visit request. We also encourage you to visit local clinics and hospitals to educate about the availability of certified peer visitors.

If you have fit the requirements on the back of this flyer and are interested in becoming a certified peer visitor, please feel free to contact us at 888.267.5669 or email [peersupport@amputee-coalition.org](mailto:peersupport@amputee-coalition.org). Applications are available at [amputee-coalition.org](http://amputee-coalition.org).

The Amputee Coalition views our peer visitor volunteers as an important part of delivering our mission. The following criteria reflect our commitment to professionalism and delivering an impactful, effective peer visit.

A peer visitor must:

- Have experienced limb loss, live with a limb difference, or are a partner/spouse, family member or caregiver affected by limb loss
- Be at least 18 years old to conduct an independent peer visit; children age 10-18 may be certified with a parent or caregiver and conduct joint, supervised peer visits
- Be 12 months or more post-amputation or be born with a limb difference
- Be able to communicate well with others
- Be comfortable with visiting and educating healthcare facilities and clinicians who serve people affected by limb loss
- Be an advocate for the Amputee Coalition, including the National Limb Loss Resource Center, key publications and materials
- Learn about basic limb loss statistics, including all levels of amputation and the effects of limb loss
- Authorize and be able to pass a criminal background check at your own expense every two years for the duration of your certification
- Provide three references, including at least one from a healthcare provider and one from the applicant's support group leader if that applicant is a member of a support group
- Provide to the Amputee Coalition and keep current information including, but not limited to, name, email, phone, address, date of birth, level of limb loss, cause of amputation, date of amputation, interests and activities, and the distance willing to travel to conduct a peer visit
- Be an individual subscriber to the Amputee Coalition's *inMotion* magazine and subscribe to all Amputee Coalition email to keep apprised of ongoing activities
- Not be principally employed in a marketing capacity by a manufacturer of devices or provider of services to people affected by limb loss.

If you fit this criteria and are interested in becoming a certified peer visitor, please feel free to contact us at 888.267.5669 or email [peersupport@amputee-coalition.org](mailto:peersupport@amputee-coalition.org) for an application and information about training classes. Thank you for your interest!

