



Autism Society of Central Texas New Program/Support Group Orientation

Thank you for your interest in forming a new support group! We consider our local support groups to be our service programs because it's how we continue to serve our autism families here in Central Texas. We currently have support groups in San Antonio, Bastrop, South Austin, Central Austin, North Austin and Buda. We also offer our Autism Treatment Forum (biomedical approaches to autism), a Parent of Adults with Disabilities Group, and a Happy Hour. Your group will help many families and individuals in need of information, resources, and emotional support.

First things first:

- Do you have a location to hold your meeting?
- Do you have a preference date for your meeting ie every second Tuesday, etc.?

How we help you spread the word:

- Many of our groups start to develop their own mailing list of contacts. We can provide you with a sign-up sheet for your meetings.
- From there, we can send messages to your members about updates and upcoming meetings.
- We send out a monthly events announcement via Mail Chimp which will include your meeting date, location, topic, etc.
- We can also share your group via social media (Facebook, Yahoo, Twitter).

What we can provide:

- It's our job to provide information and referral support to our families. Although we are a lean organization, if you need printed materials, certain collateral, even snacks for your group, we will provide the support you need to support others!

Expectations:

- A board or staff member may be in attendance.
- Any use of our logo must be approved by our office first.
- Any request for monetary stipends must be submitted and reviewed before approval.
- You'll be expected to attend a quarterly programs meeting where our support group leaders meet and provide updates on their activity, successes, and needs.
- Participate in program group emails (usually once a month).
- Above all, be a professional representative of the Autism Society and our mission to improve the lives of all affected by autism 😊

Do you have any questions for us?

Email Program Specialist, Caroline Turner, LMSW, at Caroline@austinautismsociety.org