

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 the CPV training course, the Amputee Coalition provides:

- Resource materials to share with someone new to amputation, their family members, and caregivers
- Ongoing support via a private Facebook group
- Training material updates
- Peer support matching services
- Tools to track and report peer visits. Amputee Coalition 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/limb difference. 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

Once CPV-certified, Amputee Coalition volunteers may be called upon for virtual and in-person peer visits, typically when your background or geography is a close match to the peer visit request. We also encourage CPVs to network in their local communities and visit local rehabilitation centers, clinics and hospitals to provide education about the availability of Certified Peer Visitors.

If a person meets the requirements on the back of this flyer, and are interested in becoming a CPV, please contact 888.267.5669 or email peersupport@amputee-coalition.org. Online CPV applications are available at amputee-coalition.org.

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

A Certified Peer Visitor must:

- Have experienced limb loss, live with a limb difference, or be a partner/spouse, family member, or caregiver affected by limb loss/limb difference.
- Be at least 18 years old to conduct an independent peer visit; youth ages 10-17 living with limb loss/limb difference may be certified with a parent or caregiver and conduct joint, supervised peer visits.
- Be 12 months or more post-amputation by the date of CPV training, or be born with a limb difference.
- Not be principally employed by a manufacturer of devices or provider of services to people affected by limb loss/limb difference.
- Authorize and pass a third-party criminal background check every four years for the duration of your CPV certification.
- Provide two letters of recommendation, including at least one from a healthcare provider.
- Be able to communicate well with others.
- Be comfortable with visiting and educating healthcare facilities and clinicians who serve people affected by limb loss/limb difference.
- 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.
- Provide to the Amputee Coalition and keep current information, including, name, email, phone, address, date of birth, level and cause of limb loss/limb difference, date of amputation, interests and activities, and healthcare facility affiliations.
- Be an individual subscriber to the Amputee Coalition's *inMotion* magazine and subscribe to all Amputee Coalition email to keep apprised of ongoing activities.



If you meet these criteria and are interested in becoming a Certified Peer Visitor, please visit Amputee-Coalition.org to complete the online CPV application, and find more information about training classes. Thank you for your interest!