Student Advocacy Resource Center

**Peer Advocacy Program**

Becoming a **SARC peer advocate** is an outstanding opportunity to become involved with positive change on campus while learning valuable skills in crisis intervention and advocacy. As a **peer** **advocate** working with the Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC), you will be a part of a program based on the empowerment model, a model where survivors are believed, supported, and given tools to reclaim their power. Upon completion of 40 hours of training and after an approval process, SARC advocates provide emotional support, advocacy, and valuable referrals to survivors.

Peer Advocate duties and expectations include:

* **Complete 40 hours of SARC Advocate Training and commit to volunteer for 1 school year.**
* **Ensure confidential communication with all survivors.**
* Provide emotional support, crisis stabilization, education and referrals to survivors and their partners, friends, and family.
* Respond appropriately and empathetically to a crisis situation.
* Consistently participate in and learn from constructive feedback.
* Staff the 24-hr support line during the academic year.
* Inform the survivor of options.
* Attend mandatory bi-weekly group supervision meetings.
* Work a minimum of one office shift and one evening/weekend support line shift per week.
* Document all client contacts with appropriate paperwork.
* Adhere to all SARC policies and procedures.
* Remain committed to non-violence and to the empowerment of all survivors.
* Maintain a respectful attitude toward all people regardless of gender, culture, ethnic group, religion, or sexual orientation.

\*\*Independent study or internship credits are available through some departments.\*\*

SARC advocates are carefully selected, beginning with this written application. Applications can be dropped off at the SARC office or returned via email. After reviewing applications, we will select individuals to interview before training begins in August.

**Contact SARC at 406.243.4556 with any questions or e-mail the Advocate Coordinator at** **alison.pepper@mso.umt.edu** **for more information.**

Application

For the

Peer Advocacy Program

At the

Student Advocacy Resource Center

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Local

 Permanent

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Local Permanent

EMAIL:

MAJOR: G.P.A. YEAR IN SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_

University affiliations (clubs, groups, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions:** (attach page if you need more space)

1) Why do you want to be a peer advocate at SARC?

2.) What pertinent skills or experience do you have that you think would be helpful to you as an advocate? Please list relevant experience in crisis intervention, phone work, personal experience, etc.

3.) How are the issues of relationship violence, stalking and sexual assault related to forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, homophobia, heterosexism, classism, etc?

1. Describe your comfort level with looking at these biases in yourself and our culture.
2. How would you address a fellow advocate or SARC staff if you heard someone make a problematic remark (e.g., a statement that is homophobic, racist, transphobic, etc.)?

1. How would you respond if a fellow advocate confronted you on a comment you made?

4.) Imagine that you are working with a rape survivor. SARC training will provide you with the tools to support the survivor in making her/his own choice. This survivor tells you that s/he does not want to report. How would you respond? Why do you think someone might not want to report their assault?

5.) SARC relies on the dedication and commitment of advocates to ensure that we can offer the services we do. There is a significant time commitment required to be a SARC Advocate. Can you commit to…

 40 hours of required advocate training before the start of the fall semester?

A 2-hour office shift each week?

4 to 5 support line shifts each month?

 A bi-weekly Peer Advocates meeting?

One full school year of volunteer work with SARC?

**RETURN THIS APPLICATION to the SARC Office**

**in the Curry Health Center, Room 108**