



The DRN Coordinator Role

The coordinator has primary responsibility for running the DRN program within his or her state, province or territory. Listed below are the criteria to become a coordinator and the responsibilities and benefits of being a coordinator.

Criteria

- Have an active, unencumbered license to practice independently in the state in which he or she lives.
- Be a member of your SPTA and APA.
- Be or become a Red Cross Disaster Mental Health volunteer, including completing necessary training and registering with local chapter.
- Have patience, flexibility, and an easy-going interpersonal style and be a team player in working with local response agencies.
- Good communications skills.

Responsibilities

- Read and participate on the DRN Coordinators listserv; participate on twice yearly conference calls and attend DRN Coordinators meeting every other year.
- Serve as DRN point of contact for your SPTA and communicate regularly with the APA DRN Office, SPTA DRN members, SPTA leadership about program activities.
- Develop and maintain ongoing connections with the local Red Cross chapters and other local disaster relief organizations.
- Create and maintain a current roster of contact information for DRN members in your state, province or territory.
- Recruit interested psychologists to take disaster mental health training, become a Red Cross or other organization volunteer, and join the DRN program.
- Forward to DRN members in your state, province or territory the regular electronic communications you receive from the APA DRN Office (e.g. DRN Buzz and DRN in the Field); share local information about training, research, exercises, and response opportunities.
- Collaborate with DRN regional Advisory Committee member and DRN Office for guidance and assistance, as needed.

Benefits

- Access to a vibrant network of colleagues across the U.S. and Canada.
- Awareness of standard operating procedures and steps to take when disaster strikes.
- Resources, including tip sheets for the public and research for professionals; information can be shared with SPTA colleagues.
- Support of the DRN Office and collegial network to manage unanticipated aspects of disaster situations.
- Ability to determine how much time he or she can devote to running a DRN program.