Awardee Responsibilities

The purpose of this AAP Section on Emergency Medicine (SOEM) advocacy scholarship, which offsets the cost of attending the AAP Legislative Conference, is to engage Section members in advocacy issues relevant to the care of acutely ill and injured children. We hope that participants will apply what they learn at the conference to not only enhance their own ability to advocate, but to improve advocacy in our field more generally.

To that end, the following are the expectations for awardees:

1) Submit a brief report following the conference, which will be published in the Section newsletter.  

2) Serve as a resource on advocacy issues to the SOEM Executive Committee. 

3) Serve as a referee for subsequent Advocacy Scholarship applications. 

4) Serve as a Legislative Conference mentor for subsequent Advocacy Scholarship Awardees. 

5) Enroll in the AAP Key Contact Program. Pay special attention to alerts pertaining to the interests of the Section, and ask staff to forward them to the full section via the SOEM listserv as relevant. 

6) Stay in touch with the congressional staff met at the conference. Suggestions include: 
   - thank the office for meeting, 
   - put alerts on their calendars at certain times throughout the year to get back in touch with the office and check in on a topic of mutual interest, 
   - request meetings over recess periods in the member’s home district, 
   - attend local events and stay in touch via email with staff met with during the conference, 
   - invite the legislator to their institution to tour the area where the participant practices. 

7) Train your colleagues in advocacy. Through Grand Rounds presentations, formal report-outs to committee/council/section leaders if the conference was funded through that group, or writing an article for a chapter or section newsletter, participants can teach the power of federal advocacy by imparting knowledge to peers. Consider deputizing colleagues to lead members of the committee/council/section in one targeted advocacy activity, for example, initiating a coordinated outreach to Hill offices around a legislative priority, or writing an article for the Section or other newsletter about their experiences. 

8) Work with your state AAP chapter to advance PEM advocacy. 

9) Find ways to use the media and social media to advocate. Suggestions include: 
   - write op-eds (participants can visit the “Media Center” page on federaladvocacy.aap.org for sample op-eds and tips, and email kids1st@aap.org to request additional guidance in writing and pitching op-eds) 
   - participate in social media advocacy activities (SOEM Committee for the Future and the AAP Social Media Ambassadors program may be resources to help). 

10) Complete an advocacy action plan.