

## BECOME AN ASCE ADVOCACY CAPTAIN

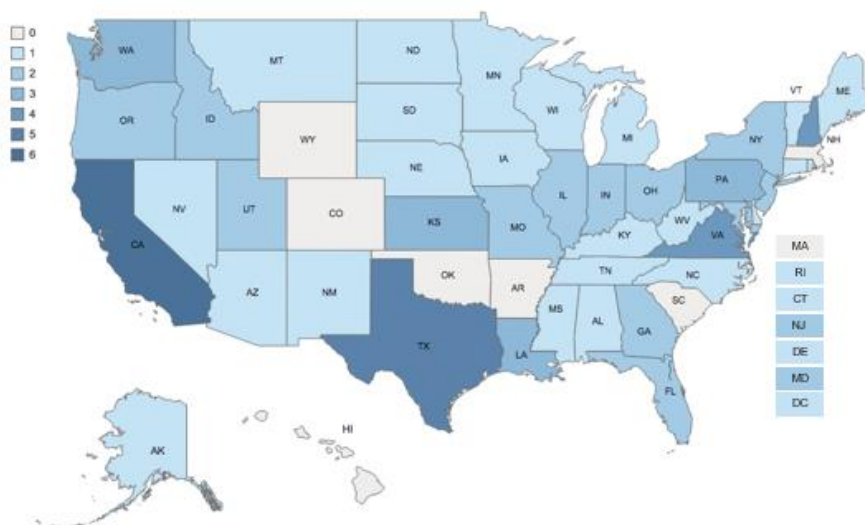
Advocacy Captain (Captain) is a formal volunteer role with ASCE's Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives Department. The goal of the Advocacy Captain program is to create a tight information loop between the Captains and ASCE lobbying, infrastructure initiatives, and grassroots staff. Advocacy Captains will serve to strengthen the state and federal government relations program by working with staff to support new and existing Section and Branch efforts at the state capitol, promote the Key Contact program, and forge relationship with Members of Congress and their staff.

This program does not supplant the current government relations or legislative affairs structure of a Region, Section or Branch. Captains exist to enhance the current program by creating a consistent point of contact with ASCE's Washington, DC office and a point person to rally members at the grassroots level to aid in the Region, Section, or Branches advocacy efforts.

Our expectation is that Captains commit to the program for multiple years – dependent upon individual availability. Participants in the program are given plenty of training and support throughout their term.

The ideal candidate should:

- ❖ Be familiar with ASCE's Priority Issues and Public Policy Statements;
- ❖ Be familiar with the priorities and procedures of the Region, Section, or Branch leadership;
- ❖ Have an interest in learning how government relations and community outreach can enhance his or her professional and ASCE goals;
- ❖ Be willing to make a multi-year commitment to the position; and
- ❖ Have experience working with the legislative issues or meeting with public officials – like attending a state drive-in or ASCE's Legislative Fly-In.



### States in Need of Advocacy Captains

Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Carolina are all in need of representation in the Advocacy Captains program. Reach out to [govwash@asce.org](mailto:govwash@asce.org) to learn more.

## TRAINING

Advocacy Captains receive ample support in return for their commitment to the program. The training program emphasizes ASCE tools and resources, ASCE policy priorities, lobbying status, and reinforcement of basic advocacy skills. The program consists of:

- ❖ 1 full-day session at the ASCE Washington DC Office – travel stipend is provided
- ❖ Quarterly conference calls or webinars.

We expect the commitment will be a minimum of 2-5 hours per month including the ongoing training activities. Continual support is also offered to Advocacy Captains via a closed Collaborate community.

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY

Once trained, we ask that Advocacy Captains engage in the following duties:

- ❖ Serve as a liaison between the Section/Branch and ASCE Government Relations staff
- ❖ Recruit volunteers to assist with Section/Branch advocacy efforts – including the recruitment of new Key Contacts
- ❖ Coordinate advocacy efforts with other Section/Branch GR Committee activities to build a culture of advocacy throughout the society
- ❖ Promote ASCE's priority issues to elected officials, key policymakers and state licensing boards
- ❖ Promote government relations activities and Key Contact Program to ASCE members
- ❖ Serve as a "State Lead" at Fly-In (*Note: Advocacy Captains get preference when applying to attend ASCE's Legislative Fly-In*)
- ❖ Provide regular updates to local Section/Branches on GR issues

## POST-ADVOCACY CAPTAIN SERVICE

Although, a term limit may be clearly defined, Advocacy Captains will be encouraged to continue their service either on national ASCE committees or through continued service at the Section/Branch level. Specific activities might include helping run training sessions, leading Section/Branch GR events, and helping with State Report Card efforts.