



Policy Title: Peer Supporter Certification Policy	
Approved by: S.O.A.R. Board of Directors	Approval Date: 4 Mar 2020

In order for a person to act as a peer supporter within S.O.A.R. they must have Peer Supporter Certification from S.O.A.R. This involves three steps: screening, training and certification.

Peer Supporter Training Selection

To be eligible for S.O.A.R. peer supporter training, the person needs to:

- Be a survivor of childhood sexual abuse (i.e., the abuse happened prior to age 18)
- Have experienced peer or professional support in their healing journey
- Be ready to hear potentially triggering stories from other survivors
- Attend pre-screening for Peer Supporter Training to see if this is an appropriate fit

Certification

To be certified as a S.O.A.R. peer supporter, the person needs to:

- Complete the S.O.A.R. Peer Supporter Training (usually 18 three-hour sessions)
- Obtain a training certificate of completion from the peer support trainer(s)
- Attend a training exit meeting with the peer support trainer(s) and a member of the Certification Committee to determine readiness to offer peer support.
(Note: If additional training is required to be ready to offer peer support, a plan will be drawn between the person and the certification committee to identify the steps required.)
- Be approved by the Certification Committee
- Be or become a member of S.O.A.R.

The person will receive an annually issued S.O.A.R. Peer Supporter card from the Certification Committee as proof of certification as a S.O.A.R. Certified Peer Supporter.

Maintaining S.O.A.R. Peer Supporter Certification

The following conditions apply to maintaining standing as a Certified Peer Supporter:

- Remain an active S.O.A.R. member in good standing (has attended peer support meetings, or educational events, or participated on a committee, or supported a peer)
- Follow the S.O.A.R. Code of Conduct
- Unless having specifically been granted a leave of absence, if a peer supporter is inactive for a period of 1 year or more, they are no longer certified to offer peer support. To resume peer support activities, the peer supporter needs to:
 - Reconnect with S.O.A.R. activities
 - Meet with the Certification Committee to determine their readiness
 - Identify areas of needs and steps required to ready them for re-certification
 - Complete steps for re-certification
 - Be approved to start peer support by the Certification Committee

Note: In the case where the Certification Committee is not currently functioning, the Board of Directors will appoint an ad-hoc committee to assume those duties as required.