

Professional Organization Leader



Nursing and interdisciplinary professional organizations, membership associations, and societies multiply the power of individual members to impact health care. Pediatric nurses volunteering to lead at the local, state, national, or international level are change agents who use their voice and expertise to influence policies and practice.



Motivates others, creates a sense of belonging and purpose, and inspires others to take action



Excellent communication skills to share complex info with different audiences



Able to influence public policy and advocate for the organization's interests

Keywords

- Strategic & Visionary
- Collaboration
- Effective Communicator
- Business Savvy
- Early Adopter
- Change Agent
- Advocate
- Mission Driven

Career Steps

1

While in school, join a pediatric-focused nursing organization. Explore possibilities at: <https://ipedsnursing.org/pediatric-nursing-associations>

2

Complete your nursing degree (BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD) and obtain your license through your State Board of Nursing to begin practicing.

3

Look to your membership organization to support your interests, grow your knowledge, and deepen your awareness of issues through conferences, journal access, online communities, and special interest groups.

4

Within the organization, make meaningful connections and identify mentors. Contact a leader and ask about opportunities to shadow them or get more involved.

5

Learn about your membership organization's volunteer leadership opportunities and how elections or nominations work. Join a committee or contribute your time and expertise in other ways.

6

Continue to develop your skills in leadership, even beyond your membership organization. From financial management to advocacy and more, never stop learning. You'll bring skills back to organization to power up their voice for child health and develop the next generation of volunteer leaders.



References and links for further reading

- Institute of Pediatric Nursing list of organizations: <https://ipedsnursing.org/pediatric-nursing-associations>
- Beal JA. Pediatric Specialty Nursing Associations and their Role in Leadership Development. MCN The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing. 2022 Nov-Dec 01;47(6):327-336. Accessed August 25, 2023. https://journals.lww.com/mcnjournal/abstract/2022/11000/pediatric_specialty_nursing_associations_and_their4.aspx
- Klinshaw G. Five reasons to join a professional nursing organization. The Nurses Report, University of Buffalo School of Nursing. October 18, 2021. Accessed August 25, 2023. <https://nursing.buffalo.edu/news-events/nurses-report.host.html>.



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