

National Parent Leadership Month

Proposed Media Interview Questions

✓ **What is Parent Leadership?**

Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful roles and represent a “parent voice” to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities.

It is successfully achieved when parents and professionals build partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership in decisions that are made affecting families and communities. Examples are:

- Parents, staff and community members serving together on community planning committees, advisory boards and boards of directors
- Parents and staff advocating for greater resources for families and children in schools, communities and programs
- A parent and a teacher working together to ensure the most effective learning environment for a child
- Parents testifying before the city council or the state legislature regarding issues that affect families and children
- Parents taking the initiative to contact community organizations to seek assistance or provide input into decisions.

✓ **Why is it important to create awareness about Parent Leadership?**

Parents across the nation are working in partnership with professionals to create positive changes in their own lives and in the lives of others. They are doing this quietly and effectively and we feel that it’s important to not only honor these parents, but to encourage others to join in partnership with parents. Great things are happening as more parents, professionals and community members work together in new ways and it’s important to spread the word.

✓ **What does it mean to be a Parent Leader?**

A Parent Leader may be a parent, grandparent, kinship care provider, foster parent, or anyone else in a parenting role who speaks or acts from his or her perspective as a parent to effect change. There are many different ways that men and women use their experience, knowledge, skills and other resources to exhibit leadership. We believe that any parent has the potential to be a Parent Leader.

✓ **What are steps that parents can take to become a Parent Leader?**

- Begin by recognizing the need to take action on an issue that is important to you. Then, seek out others who demonstrate leadership behaviors and are acknowledged as leaders. They may become good role models and potential mentors.

- Make the attempt to meet others who demonstrate leadership behaviors and are acknowledged as leaders. They are good role models and potential mentors.
- When you find a project/program of interest, take steps to participate.
- Make a commitment to make a positive difference.

✓ **What are some examples of how parents can become advocates for children and families?**

- Join with other parents to start a new community-based program for parents.
- Provide assistance to another parent who wants help with an issue, whether it is at home or in the community.
- Make a presentation at your local church, temple or mosque about how you became a Parent Leader and offer to provide assistance to others who are interested in doing the same.
- Be aware of what's happening at your child's school and speak up if there is something you believe needs to change.

✓ **How can Parent Leadership impact a family? A community?**

- When parents take on leadership roles they have opportunities to grow and change and to develop new skills.
- Children who see their parents take on leadership roles learn how to become stronger leaders in their own lives.
- Communities are strengthened when parents become involved and offer their perspective and wisdom.

✓ **Why is Parent Leadership a vital strategy to strengthen families and prevent child abuse?**

When parents become Parent Leaders, they are better able to shape their families and communities to meet their needs and interests. They feel more capable and more in control of their life situations. They have opportunities to grow as individuals and to have a more positive influence in their children's lives.

✓ **What can community members do to encourage Parent Leadership?**

Community members can seek out parents who are interested in issues that impact families and the community and provide them with opportunities to assist. It might be asking them to join a committee, serve on a board, meet with a local legislator, or provide input into a new program that will impact them. Invite parents to speak at meetings and conferences or participate in some way.

✓ **How does your organization work with Parent Leaders?**

Describe the various ways your organization works with Parent Leaders. If you would like to increase the role of Parent Leaders in your organization, invite parents to contact you if they are interested in becoming involved.

✓ **How have you served as a Parent Leader?**

(To be answered by parent) This is not a time to be modest. You are serving as a role model for other parents so be sure to share your experiences as a Parent Leader and the results that have been achieved.

✓ **What is (Your organization)?**

To be answered by organization's spokesperson.

✓ **What is Parents Anonymous® Inc.?**

Parents Anonymous® Inc. is the nation's oldest child abuse prevention organization dedicated to family strengthening through mutual support and Parent Leadership. It was founded in 1969 by Jolly K., a courageous parent who sought help to create a safe and caring home for her family. Parents Anonymous® involves weekly group meetings that are co-led by parents and professionally trained Group Facilitators and are free of charge to participants. Most often, there are Parents Anonymous® Children's Programs that run concurrently.

✓ **What activities are planned for February (Year) to celebrate National Parent Leadership Month?**

Discuss the activities you have planned in your area, particularly the event you would like to promote. You might suggest that everyone can celebrate National Parent Leadership Month by recognizing and appreciating the Parent Leaders in their own family, at work and in their community.

✓ **How can parents and other interested parties learn more about Parent Leadership and working together in this new way?**

Parents Anonymous® Inc. developed and operates the *Parent Leadership Network*. This is a unique online community for parents and other interested parties such as staff, community members, professionals, and policymakers from across the country to talk about Parent Leadership development and opportunities. Membership is free. To join, complete an online registration form at www.parentleadershipnetwork.org.

✓ **How can viewers/listeners become involved in National Parent Leadership Month activities?**

They can call us to discuss various opportunities for participation in National Parent Leadership Month activities.

Provide your local information. Make sure you have it written on a piece of paper that you have with you, just in case your forget.