



Steps for Providing ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Programs

Ready to have a positive impact on your community? Think it's hard to start a ThinkFirst chapter? Think again.

The ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation provides injury prevention professionals with the tools, training and support they need to provide a choice of multiple programs on reducing preventable traumatic injuries, with an emphasis on protecting the brain and spinal cord. Seven audience-specific programs on making safe choices, road safety, concussion, preventing falls and infant safety teach attendees how injuries occur, the effects injuries can cause and how to prevent injuries to themselves and others.

ThinkFirst makes it easy to start a chapter and to begin helping your community become a safer and healthier place to live. The Foundation has chapters throughout the U.S. and across the globe. Chapters may be based in medical centers, medical universities, health departments, physician practices or in health associations such as Brain Injury or Spinal Cord Injury Associations.

"It's really turn-key," says Meghan Lyon, ThinkFirst Chapter Development Manager. "The Foundation's goal is to make it easy for injury prevention professionals to access presentation materials, develop presentation skills and educate people on reducing their risk for traumatic injuries caused by road crashes, sports and recreation, falls and violence."

The first step toward building your injury prevention program is to visit the 'Chapter' tab on the ThinkFirst website, www.thinkfirst.org. There you'll find information on starting a chapter, submitting an application, and a directory of current chapters. The ThinkFirst Foundation staff is always available to point you in the right direction and answer your questions by emailing thinkfirst@thinkfirst.org or calling 630-961-1400.

Your next step will be to identify the injury prevention professional who will be your chapter director and the licensed physician who will serve as the chapter medical director, which are both required. Nurses, physical and occupational therapists EMTs and other health educators with an understanding of brain and spinal cord injury and a passion for prevention serve as chapter directors. You can then submit your application, the resume/CV for each director and an application fee to the ThinkFirst Foundation. The fee will cover your initial membership, training and presentation materials for the various ThinkFirst programs.

Once your application is approved, the ThinkFirst Foundation and chapter director will schedule an online or onsite chapter training. The one-day training provides information on the use of each program, steps for incorporating ThinkFirst programs into your community outreach, marketing, scheduling and presenting programs, methods for evaluation and more. Once training is complete, the chapter will receive online access to all chapter

resources, including program videos, PowerPoint presentations, scripts, handouts, evaluation tools and other unique and useful chapter information.

To stay current in injury prevention while earning continuing education hours and connecting with other injury prevention professionals, the ThinkFirst Conference on Injury Prevention is held each spring; details are found in the 'Events' tab at www.thinkfirst.org. This year, the new chapter application fee includes the \$350 registration fee for one conference attendee. The next conference will be held April 24-26, 2020, in Boston, Massachusetts; start your chapter process now to join other new and experienced chapter members in Boston!