
GMSA News Release



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“Voices and Choices”
Vermont’s 20th Annual Self-Advocacy Conference
For Adults and Youth with Developmental Disabilities, their Families and Supporters

Montpelier, VT — On May 14-15, 2018, [Green Mountain Self-Advocates \(GMSA\)](http://www.gmsavt.org) will hold Vermont’s 20th Annual “Voices and Choices” Self-Advocacy Conference at the [DoubleTree by Hilton](http://www.doubletree.com) in Burlington, VT. This year more than 650 people representing every county in Vermont have registered to attend.



The theme of this year’s conference is *Celebrating 20 Years of Voices and Choices!* GMSA has hosted this annual event since 1998, with every year it growing stronger, bigger, and drawing more Vermonters with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, and allies to collectively learn about decision-making, self-advocacy, and relationships. This year’s keynote speaker is Emily Ladau, a nationally renowned and passionate disability rights activist, writer, and speaker whose career began at the age of 10, when she appeared on several episodes of Sesame Street to educate children about her life with a disability. She is dedicated to using the power of social media as a tool for people of all abilities to become informed and engaged about disability and social justice issues. Emily serves as the Editor in Chief of the Rooted in Rights Blog, a national platform focused on disability rights issues. Her website is [Words I Wheel By](http://www.wordsiwheelby.com).

Conference highlights include more than 20 workshops (all led by people with developmental disabilities, on topics such as “Podcasting Power: Be the Star of Your Own Show!” and “Life in Africa for People with Disabilities”), a large variety of advocacy art projects, a dancing flash mob, a talent show, an awards ceremony, a Dinner Dance, amazing guest speakers who will share stories of the impact of Voices and Choices, exhibitor tables, and more. GMSA is extremely proud to have the [University of Vermont Center on Disability and Communication Inclusion](http://www.uvm.edu), [Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council](http://www.vermontdevelopmentaldisabilities.org) and the [State of Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living \(DAIL\)](http://www.dail.vt.gov) as a Super Advocate Level Sponsors for the 20th annual Voices and Choices Conference.



For more information about Green Mountain Self-Advocates, please visit www.gmsavt.org.

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