

# Ms. Wheelchair America

## THE INDEPENDENT DELEGATE PROCESS

EMPOWERING WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT  
THROUGH LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

### About the Organization

#### OUR PURPOSE & GOALS

Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc., is an advocacy, education, and leadership-based organization that focuses on raising awareness about disabilities, celebrating the accomplishments of women who use wheelchairs, and educating society on architectural and attitudinal barriers that impact the disability community. Please Note: We are NOT a beauty pageant.

#### OUR MISSION

The mission of Ms. Wheelchair America is to provide an opportunity of achievement for women who happen to be wheelchair users to successfully educate and advocate for the more than 61 million Americans living with disabilities.



#### WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like more information on how to become involved with the Ms. Wheelchair America organization, please contact our Executive Director, Stephanie Deible by calling 1-877-MSWHEEL or email [director@mswheelchairamerica.org](mailto:director@mswheelchairamerica.org)



### What is an Independent Delegate?

An Independent Delegate is a woman who uses a wheelchair for mobility that creates a Ms. Wheelchair Program in their state by becoming a titleholder and then serving as the State Coordinator. An Independent Delegate has two main responsibilities:

- Serve as the titleholder for your state for one year. You have the chance to pick your own platform, travel your state, spread your message, AND compete in the National Competition.
- Become a State Coordinator after you compete in the National Competition as a titleholder. As a State Coordinator, you build your state program, and hold an annual state event to crown a new titleholder every year.



### **ADVOCATE**

As an Independent Delegate you will have the opportunity to advocate for the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers against people with disabilities. This can be done by meeting with elected officials, attending advocacy events that promote inclusion for people with disabilities, writing articles, and sharing your experiences as a person with a disability.

### **EDUCATE**

As an Independent Delegate you will have the opportunity to educate people in your state about the needs and achievements of the disability community. You will also have the opportunity to engage with your community, visit or attend places such as expos, schools, universities, hospitals, support groups, civic clubs, and centers for independent living to discuss disability related matters.

### **DEVELOP A PLATFORM**

As an Independent Delegate you will have the opportunity to develop a platform to raise awareness about people with disabilities, specifically about the accomplishments of women who are wheelchair mobile. This platform should be your passion. You can work to bring awareness to your platform by engaging with the community and attending events in your state.

### **SERVE**

As an Independent Delegate you will have the opportunity to serve as a role model for all people with disabilities. This includes people of all ages and backgrounds. We ask that you make a point of interacting with youth or children with and without disabilities on multiple occasions throughout your year, so that they can better understand persons with disabilities.