



2023 Advocate Training Calendar

Trainees **must complete EACH** of the classroom trainings for each Session.
Individual make up sessions may be granted once per session.

Spring 2023 Session – March Classroom Trainings

Thursday	March 23 rd	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	March 27 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	March 30 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	April 3 rd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	April 6 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	April 10 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	April 13 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

Summer 2023 Session – June Classroom Trainings

Thursday	June 1 st	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	June 5 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	June 8 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	June 12 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	June 15 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	June 19 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	June 22 nd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

Fall 2023 Session – September New Volunteer Classroom Sessions

Thursday	Sept 7 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	Sept 11 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	Sept 14 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	Sept 18 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	Sept 21 st	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	Sept 25 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	Sept 28 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

A CASA is a Volunteer Advocate, who is at least 21 years of age, must pass all background checks and complete all training and court observations required by the Texas CASA guidelines through Big Country CASA.

The Volunteer is then sworn in before the Family Court Judge with the oath of confidentiality. The CASA Volunteer is supervised by Big Country CASA and assigned cases of children who are in foster care system in the Taylor County Child Protection Court.

A CASA Volunteer is one who respects a child's inherent right to grow up with dignity in a permanent, safe environment that meets that child's needs. A CASA advocates for the child's best interests in the Court during the period of the case assignment and is considered the eyes and ears of the court.

The impact of a CASA in a child's journey through foster care is immeasurable in relation to the emotional security and physical support the consistency of a CASA provides the child.

But the tangible impact of a CASA on the outcome on cases is seen in several ways; cases with a CASA are typically resolved quicker and are more likely to have a shorter stay in foster care. They are less likely to be returned to foster care and secure a permanent, safe placement quicker.

CASAs typically have one or two cases at a time, which allows them more time to advocate for the best interest of the children which benefits the Attorney at Litem, and the Case Workers. CASAs are just one part of a team working together for the good of the children from our community, and together we are changing the course of their lives.

For more information, please contact Rebel Taylor at Big Country CASA @ 325-677-6448, or visit us at www.bigcountrycasa.org, or stop by our offices at 400 Oak St, Suite 213, Abilene, TX.

Applications may be done through our website: <https://bigcountrycasa.org/applicationforms/>

