



Training is provided for the position. The online portion of the training consists of 20 modules and should take about 15 hours to complete. This is followed by reviewing the Victim Advocate Training Manual, which will take about 8 hours. This portion of the training is entirely self-paced.

The volunteer position is as an on-call victim advocate. The Volunteer Coordinator will send out the calendar for you to pick days that fit your schedule at the beginning of each month for the following month. Most volunteers sign up for 2-3 days a month, but if you would like to volunteer more days or less days, that is fine too. If you sign up for a weekday, it would be from 5 pm that day to 8:30 am the following day, and if it is a weekend day, the hours would be from 8:30 am that day to 8:30 am the next day. You would leave your phone on loud while on call and continue your daily life! Just ensure you are no further than 45 minutes from the hospital and do not consume alcohol.

A basic description of the duties, which I will go into much more detail during a scheduled Zoom training in the future, would be if the center gets a call, it will go to our answering service, and they will call your number. It will either be a crisis call or a hospital call. The crisis calls are primarily victims of sexual assault who want someone to talk to and listen to them; these typically last between 15 and 45 minutes. Crisis calls are typically victims who need a listening ear. Hospital calls will be from Baptist Easley Hospital or Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, typically lasting around 3 hours. You would have to get to the hospital within 45 minutes of the call and be there to advocate for the victim of sexual assault. There will be three sheets of paperwork for you to do at the hospital. We also offer clothes, snacks, and drinks to make the victim more comfortable. You will encourage the victim, let them know their options for reporting, tell them they are doing a good job, ask if they need a break, etc.