



# JA Parent Support Network

Connect, Educate & Empower

In 2018, the Arthritis Foundation is excited to pilot the JA Parent Support Network for parents with children living with juvenile arthritis and other childhood rheumatic disease! These support networks are part of an expanding range of Arthritis Foundation resources that provides personalized help & support to parents who have a child/teen with a childhood rheumatic disease. The JA Parent Support Network offers connection, education and empowerment.

During our 2018 pilot, groups will meet at least three times and feature a combination of educational and social activities that are inclusive for all in attendance.

Trained volunteer leaders share a common goal of bringing people together for activities focused on mutual support and positive coping strategies for living well.

## Interested in leading a group?

Following our JA Parent Support Network pilot, we will be looking for positive and enthusiastic volunteers to lead our groups. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about our **leader training program**, please visit [this link](#).

## Local Outreach

The local network provides a supportive social connection. Lead by trained volunteers, meetings and events are tailored to each group's needs. Group members become self-advocates and develop self-management skills.

## Connection

Connect online with others for support and inspiration. Members can share stories and learn from the experiences of others living with arthritis.  
[arthritis.org/community](http://arthritis.org/community)

## Parent Testimonial

*"I had not had any previous opportunities to talk with parents of children with JA - this was VERY healing for me. This is an awesome experience for us to spend time together, get questions answered and spend time with people who understand what we are going through!"*

*- JA Event Participant and parent of child with JA*