

Thank you for contacting SPN! The Society of Pediatric Nurses is dedicated to becoming the premier resource for nurses caring for children and their families. SPN has members from diverse geographical areas, practice settings and subspecialties.

The Pediatric Nursing Career If you are interested in becoming a Registered Nurse, a great resource to review as you investigate the field of pediatric nursing is our Nursing Resources page on our website: www.pedsnurses.org/nursingresources. You can also visit www.pedsnurses.org/becominganurse. We have a variety of links available that can direct you to information about the pediatric specialty field, education, credentialing and more.

Purpose & Function of SPN The mission of the Society of Pediatric Nurses is to advance the specialty of pediatric nursing through excellence in education, research and practice. Much of what we do is accomplished by the support of our members and dedicated efforts of our committee members, volunteers and chapters across the nation. To learn more about our mission, core values and strategic goals, visit www.pedsnurses.org/aboutSPN. SPN provides many benefits to our members that support this mission, including continuing education activities like the Annual Conference and member webinars, the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, annual awards recognizing excellence in education, practice and research, scholarships and research grant programs, member-only discussion forums, a file library and much more. Please visit www.pedsnurses.org/join for a complete list of SPN member benefits.

Membership Requirements There are four categories of membership in SPN. Regular members are licensed Registered Nurses who are employed or interested in pediatric nursing. Regular members also receive a subscription to *Journal of Pediatric Nursing* and may vote, hold office, and serve on SPN committees. Next, Associate members are individuals other than registered nurses who are interested in the care of children, including LPNs/LVNs. They can also be appointed to SPN committees. Third, Retired members are individuals who have retired from professional employment. Finally, Student members are full-time students pursuing their initial nursing degree.

Chapters SPN local chapters are distributed throughout the United States and offer networking and continuing education opportunities for pediatric nurses. These chapter memberships are an optional add-on to your annual membership, and a directory can be found at www.pedsnurses.org/chapters.

Annual Conference A primary benefit of SPN membership is discounted registration to the Annual Conference. Our upcoming 29th Annual Conference will center on a theme of "Advocate, Innovate, Elevate." It will be held from April 24-27, 2019 in Washington, D.C. Topics presented will represent research, evidence-based practice, clinical practice, quality improvement, leadership and management, and education within pediatric nursing. The conference is a unique opportunity for pediatric nurses to use the latest trends, best practices and academic research to determine how to advance their practice. It is a great way to learn evidence-based methods and new ways to handle difficult situations from experts in the field. It is also a wonderful networking opportunity to meet and collaborate with professionals from around the country. For more information, please visit www.pedsnurses.org/2019Conference.

We hope this helps answer some of your questions relating to pediatric nursing and SPN. Please feel free to contact us with any other questions you may have.

Thank you again for your interest.

SPN National Office