Autism is also known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD). People with autism have challenges with communication and social skills. They also have repetitive behaviors or restricted interests.

- Approximately 1 in 36 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with ASD.
- Early intervention can improve learning, communication and social skills, as well as underlying brain development.
- Nearly two-thirds of children with autism between the ages of 6 and 15 have been bullied.

**How Can You Help Raise Awareness?**

- Educate yourself! Awareness starts with each person taking responsibility for themselves. Do your part to understand more about what autism is and how you can interact more effectively with individuals with autism.
- Be an advocate! Stand up for children and adults with autism. Ensure that individuals with special needs feel welcomed and valued where you work and are treated with respect just like everyone else.
Tell us about yourself!
• My name is Kalianna Brooks and I’m the president of NSSLHA for 2022-2023. I’m from Clintwood Virginia- a very small town about 3 hours from Radford!

What did you enjoy most about being the president of NSSLHA?
• Planning and participating in all of the events throughout the year has been my favorite thing about being president.

What is your advice to the upcoming president or anyone considering applying for the position?
• Applications to be next year’s president will be sent out in April! I encourage anyone who is interested to apply! (Or apply to be an officer in the fall!) Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try something new, plus extracurriculars look great on grad school applications!

What are your plans post graduation?
• After graduation I will be attending graduate school, but I am still deciding between 2 of my options!
April Announcements

Banquet
Thursday, April 6th
- 7-9pm at Bisset Park Shelter 2

Ice Cream Sundae Bar
Monday, April 17th
- 7pm

Your Next Step
Tuesday, April 11th
- 7pm

T-shirt Tie Die
Tuesday, April 25th
- 6pm

Keep an eye out for more information on location, details, and extra credit available