



April 23 - April 29

DISABILITY BOOK WEEK



DisabilityBookWeek.org



disabilitybookweek@gmail.com

Requesting a Proclamation

Hello Advocates!

Thank you for your interest in raising disability awareness and inclusion in literature! One of the ways you can get involved in disability advocacy this year is by requesting a proclamation for your city or state (US based). It is actually much easier than most people think.

Step 1:

Go to your city or state's website. For some smaller cities, you may need to send an email asking for the procedure.

Step 2:

Search proclamation request. Every city and state is slightly different, but there should be an online form

Step 3: Fill out the requested information and submit, easy as that! They will usually ask if you want the proclamation mailed or picked up, and you get to keep the remainder of your advocacy work.

TIPS:

- Submit 6-8 weeks in advance, so by or around March 10
- They request a specific format for the document, which we included below
- Before you submit, substitute your town's information into the bolded section, so your mayor/ governor's name, as well as city/ state

Happy Advocating,

Mary Mecham

Disability Book Week Director



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Disability Book Week 2023: Proclamation Request Template

Description of event: Disability Book Week is a week during which schools and libraries are encouraged to set up displays of books that feature characters with disabilities or that are written by disabled authors, so the general public gain a greater awareness of, and appreciation for, literary works that are inclusive of the disabled population.

WHEREAS FORMATTED REQUEST (continued onto next page)

WHEREAS, The disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as a part of our rich diversity, yet the disability community is underrepresented in literary works.

WHEREAS, Disability is a social construct. The issue at hand is not the presence of a medical condition residing within the individual, but that society does not create welcoming, supporting environment for all. Inclusion is essential at all levels within the community.

WHEREAS, while the public is aware of inclusion of race, religion, political persuasion, and other identifiers, there is a limited awareness of disability inclusion in literature, and the burden of awareness has fallen to the shoulders of those impacted by disabilities, either indirectly or directly.

WHEREAS, The most effective way to increase awareness is through everyone's openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities enjoying equitable experiences.



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WHEREAS, Equitable experiences and full inclusion is a matter of social justice. Consequently, creating equitable inclusive environments is a shared responsibility of everyone.

WHEREAS, the advocacy effort, Disability Book Week, is dedicated to increasing awareness and inclusion of authors with disabilities and books featuring characters with disabilities, as well as supporting literacy efforts in order to support and benefit individuals with disabilities and provide the opportunity for all to identify with, and see themselves represented in, published literary works.

WHEREAS, Disability Book Week provides an opportunity for schools, libraries, and the public in general to raise awareness of the underrepresented disability population. It is costly to our communities when awareness remains limited because society misses out on the rich talents and experiences those with disabilities have to offer their communities.

WHEREAS, Citizens should do all in their power to:

Recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives and the valued role it has in our rich diversity.

Recognize the barriers presented to those with disabilities.

Create ways to include everyone; especially those with developmental disabilities, to be fully included in all aspects of life.

NOW, therefore, I, **(name of official), mayor/ governor of (city/state)**, do hereby proclaim, April 23rd-29th as Disability Book Week in **(city/state)**.