

# ***Requesting a Proclamation for Disability Book Week***

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 to “officially” recognize Disability Book Week the last full week in April (April 19-25, 2026). It is actually much easier than most people think.

Step 1: Go to your city or state's website.

Step 2: Search proclamation request. Every city and state is slightly different, but there is often a simple online form. In smaller towns, you may need to email the Mayor’s office for the procedure.

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 reminder of your advocacy work.

TIPS: Submit 6-8 weeks in advance, so by or around March 10. Copy and paste the formatted text below. Make sure to add your mayor/governor’s name as well as the city/state! If the government form asks for a website link to Disability Book Week’s Mission Statement, you may provide <https://disabilitybookweek.org/about-us>

Happy Advocating,

*The Disability Book Week Advocacy Team*



# ***Disability Book Week***

## ***Proclamation Request Template***

### ***Description of event:***

Disability Book Week is a week during which individuals, schools, libraries, and businesses are encouraged to read, share, and display books that feature characters with disabilities so the general public gain a greater awareness of, and appreciation for, literary works that are inclusive of the disabled population, ultimately building a more inclusive world.

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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## ***Proclamation Request Template***

### ***Description of event continued:***

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 19-25 as Disability Book Week in (city/state).

