

WordPress Accessibility Day 2025



Make All WordPress Events Accessible

Joe A Simpson Jr

**If today were my last day,
would I do what I'm doing?**

**If the answer was 'NO' too
many days in a row, I'd make
a change.**

Steve Jobs

**(Accessibility) is a
floor, not a ceiling.**

Jim LeBrecht, Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)

Statistics to Consider



- Nearly 1 in 5 Americans will become disabled for 1 year or more before the age of 65.
- Three out of 10 workers between the ages of 25 - 65 will experience an accident or illness that keeps them out of work for 3 months or longer.
- Nearly 1 in 3 Americans ages 35-65 will become disabled for more than 90 days.

[Disability Insurance Statistics, Metro Disability Insurance](#)

Types of Disabilities



- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- HIV
- Autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Deafness or hearing loss
- Blindness or low vision
- Epilepsy
- Mobility disabilities such as those requiring the use of a wheelchair, walker, or cane
- Intellectual disabilities
- Major depressive disorder
- Traumatic brain injury

[Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

Takeaways



- [How the ADA Changed the Built World](#) Netflix: Behind the Streams
- [Special Report, Meadowbrook: The Last Great Disgrace](#) (Video 41:55-44:41)
- ["Crip Camp" and the disability rights movement](#) CBS Sunday Morning
- [SXSW Accessibility \(deaf\)](#), Meryl Evans, LinkedIn
- [SXSW Accessibility \(Neurodivergence\)](#), Rachel Lowenstein, LinkedIn
- [5 Days Without a Shower](#), Michelle Frechette, Post Status

History of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

- Before its passage, many disabled people could expect a life limited to their home or worse, be sent away to institutions (with [horrible living conditions in some cases](#));
- A group of teens attended a summer camp for kids with disabilities (a first), Camp Jened in upstate New York near Woodstock;
- Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, these now young adults, led nationwide protests in the form of sit-ins, advocating for basic access to public facilities, services, transit, etc;
- One such protest, [the Capital Crawl](#), in Washington, DC highlighted how someone with a disability can't access a government building because of physical barriers such as stairs; and
- The American with Disabilities Act was signed into law in 1990 and their efforts [changed the physical world](#) forever.

**If I cannot do great
things, I can do small
things in a great way.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Accessible Organizing



- Be inclusive and equitable when inviting organizers, volunteers, and speakers
- Offer a seat at the table to 'outspoken' voices as resources, collaborators, and inspiration
- Leverage existing efforts (docs, community and accessibility resources, Make WordPress, previous WordCamps or event P2s, online articles)*

[Venue Accessibility Checklist](#), WordCamp Organizer's Handbook

Accessible Venue Scouting



- Tour venue(s) with someone with a disability;
- Entrances (cut curbs to building, restrooms, elevators, etc);
- Restrooms (stalls, paddles, handles, counter heights)

[Venue Accessibility Checklist](#), WordCamp Organizer's Handbook

Wayfinding/Signage



- Basic, simple maps and signage (avoid venue-provided or 'designed')
- Provide wayfinding in multiple formats:
 - Never offer only PDF or graphic maps;
 - Offer common paths maps and descriptions to key event spaces;
- Place clear, concise signage at key spots along common paths; and
- Offer 'walkthrough' video (especially larger venues)*

Accessible Event Experience



- Does your hotel block/venue offer a variety of accessible rooms?
- Will your venue or organizing team provide support/on-call texting/services to assist disabled?
- Offer distance badges for attendees to identify their comfort level; and
- Do you have a dedicated accessibility team or a11y-knowledgeable contacts on various teams (often under attendee services)?
- Provide accessibility-specific instructions to volunteer teams.

Accessible Event Livestream



- Offer lower-capacity viewing rooms for neurodivergent attendees
- Live caption program presentations and consider ASL (keynote)
- Offer pre-recorded content for neurodivergent attendees*
- Add timepoints to YouTube videos*

[Venue Accessibility Checklist](#), WordCamp Organizer's Handbook

Accessible Speaker Slides



- Verbally describe your graphics or images while speaking
- Caption, add ALT text or descriptions to all images
- Make your presentation slides available before, during, and after

[Venue Accessibility Checklist](#), WordCamp Organizer's Handbook

Accessible Event Websites



- Test ALL posts/pages for accessibility (theme choice as well)
- Avoid low color contrast text and designs
- Add proper ALT text to all images (incl. social messaging)

[Venue Accessibility Checklist](#), WordCamp Organizer's Handbook

Contribute.

Takeaways

Testers Needed! How to get started and contribute.



Make WordPress Accessible Team

- Make WordPress Accessible [Office Hours](#)
- Make WordPress Accessible [Bug Scrubs \(weekly\)](#)
- Make WordPress Accessible [Team Meetings \(bi-weekly\)](#)
- Make WordPress [Meeting Calendar](#)
- Make WordPress [Contribute Wizard](#)*
- Make WordPress on [Slack](#)*

Takeaways

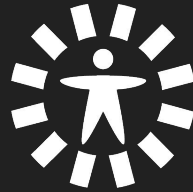


- [Making Events Accessible](#), Web Accessibility Initiative, W3.org
- [Accessibility of Remote Meetings](#), Web Accessibility Initiative, W3.org
- [Zoom Accessibility Best Practices](#), University of Colorado, Boulder
- [Venue Accessibility Checklist](#) First Steps, WordCamp Organizer Handbook
- [Interaction Badges](#) Ryan Boren, Stimpunks Foundation

**...I'm all for bridging gaps.
But not at the expense of
my neighbor's humanity.**

Ta-Nehisi Coates

Thanks.



**WordPress
Accessibility
Day 2025**

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WordPressSCV





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bit.ly/wpallydaydoc



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