## People with disabilities face unnecessary and discriminatory barriers to full and integrated community participation. Advocacy Day for Access & Independence (ADAI) is our day to rally together and call on lawmakers to unlock barriers, advocate for disability rights, and create a Barrier-Free SC!

## What is ADAI?

* Advocacy Day for Access & Independence was created as a part of the State Plan for Independent Living in 2014. The first event attracted over 300 South Carolina residents, and since then, support has grown to 40 organizations statewide, all unified to ensure people with disabilities have equal access and opportunity.
* State legislators and officials, as well as activists from the disability community, will be speaking about the barriers that South Carolinians with disabilities regularly face and the ways we can fix them. Advocacy Day for Access and Independence will shine a light on the barriers people face in hopes of improving the lives of all South Carolinians.

## What does a “hybrid event” mean?

* Come in person to see Statehouse speeches and events, or join the Livestream through YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, and start conversations by adding comments.
* Both in-person and online participants will be guided through how to contact their representatives and provided with powerful tools to make collective action easier than ever before.

## What about accessibility?

* CART live-captioning services and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available to all viewers throughout the event.
* We hope that through this hybrid event, people will begin to think differently about what accessibility and accommodations look like. They benefit everyone and are much easier to use than one might think

## Activities

**These can be done before ADAI, in person at the event, or between live-streamed speeches.**

### Get To Know The Issues

* Visit [**https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/barriers/**](https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/barriers/) for the official details behind our key issue areas of focus, the barriers, and how lawmakers can unlock them.
  + Discrimination
  + Housing
  + Transporation
  + Healthcare

### Learn The History Of The Movement

* Research and talk about the amazing lives of these disability rights activists:
  + Alice Wong
  + Judy Heumann
  + Annie Segarra
  + Lolo Spencer
  + Justin Dart Jr.
  + Ed Roberts
  + Lois Curtis
  + Bradley Lowmax
  + Mel Baggs
  + Steven Spohn
* Or encourage students to find their own!

### Learn About The System

* Visit these links and find your representatives. Discuss their voting record on disability rights.
  + [South Carolina Legislature](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/index.php)
  + [Find Your Legislators](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php)
* **Learn how to find bills pending in the State Legislature**
* Check out the “How do I” page on the State Legislature website.
  + Click through to learn how to find bills and more!
* Explore a [mobile app](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/mobileappinfo.php) that makes it easier to know what's happening at the South Carolina State House. It lets you follow Members, Committees, Meetings, and Bills and receive near real-time push notification alerts. Search in your app store for “SC Legislature” to download.

### Watch These Videos

* Watch Netflix’s Crip Camp
  + [Crip Camp Trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRrIs22plz0)
  + [Crip Camp Full Movie](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4)
  + [Crip Camp Curriculum Guide](https://cripcamp.com/curriculum/)
  + content warning/disclaimers:
    - [Over 18s](https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/%E2%80%98Crip-Camp-Content-Warning.pdf)
    - [Under 18s](https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UNDER-18-Crip-Camp-Permission-Form.pdf)
* Watch [TED Talks on Disability](https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=relevance&q=disability)
  + [Judy Heumann TED Talk](https://www.ted.com/talks/judith_heumann_our_fight_for_disability_rights_and_why_we_re_not_done_yet) (Heumann was considered the Mother of disability rights. She recently died on March 4, 2023)

### Write A Letter

* **Write letters/postcards to your representatives**
  + [**Use our postcard template**](https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Advocacy-Day-for-Access-Independence-1.pdf) **to print and mail to representatives!**
    - Postcards written should speak about the 4 barriers discussed at Advocacy day.
  + Postcards will also be at the in-person event at the statehouse!
    - **In-person postcards will be added to our “Pillars of Truth” installation**
    - Participants will be encouraged to write a sentence or two on one postcard per issue area
    - They then take their postcards and hang them on the pillars
    - At the end of the event, volunteers will add postcards to keys
    - Those keys will be presented to each lawmaker, who will have been provided a locked padlock the week prior
    - Lawmakers will be encouraged to take their keys and use them to unlock their locks, symbolically “Unlocking the barriers for people with disabilities,” in line with the event slogan!
  + **Don’t have the ability to print them out and mail?** [**Use this online form to participate!**](https://forms.gle/iPhGHir4nnCw6QGS7)

### Virtual Advocacy

* Before, during, and after the event, students can be encouraged to create engaging social media posts about the issue areas.
  + Official event hashtag: #BarrierFreeSC
  + Make sure the content is accessible:
    - Write in [Plain Language](https://plainlanguagenetwork.org/plain-language/what-is-plain-language/)
    - When making graphics, use [this free contrast checker](https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/) to make sure that people with low vision can see your work
    - Add image descriptions and alt text to your images and graphics when posting
      * [Definition of image description, alt text, and how to add it to different platforms](https://www.jmu.edu/ods/calm/describe-images/alt-text/how-to-write-a-good-image-description.shtml)
  + Create an accessible TikTok or Reel!
    - Always add captions to your videos. Open captions, or captions you always see, are better than closed captions, or captions you can hide.
    - Provide audio descriptions for people with vision disabilities
    - Use the post caption to provide image descriptions if the video format doesn’t allow for easy audio descriptions.
    - [Learn more about how to make TikToks as accessible as possible!](https://www.3playmedia.com/blog/best-practices-tiktok-accessibility/)
* During the event: engage with the YouTube stream chat
  + Because the event will be live-streamed to YouTube, your class can send questions about what they are learning during speeches to our Virtual Emcees! They will review some questions at the end of each issue area section, approximately at 10:30, 10:55, 11:20, and 11:50.

### Advocate Through Art

* If you attend the event in person, write what access means to you on a postcard and attach it to a Pillar of Truth (There will be one for Discrimination, Housing, Transportation, and Healthcare).
* Make a poster with disability rights slogans
  + A poster-making station will be provided at Advocacy Day in person!
* As a class, school, or individual, make a sign, prop, statue, or art piece representing your perspective on the disability rights movement. Add some school pride to it as well.

### Scavenger Hunt

* If you attend in person, guide your class through the [State House Scavenger Hunt](https://southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks%20Files/State%20House/Scavenger%20hunt%20with%20map.pdf)

[**Full Event Resources**](https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/resources/)**, including information on parking, contacting lawmakers, etc.**