



How Can I Celebrate Disability History Week?

Guest Speakers: Invite people with disabilities, advocates, family members or service providers to speak for your group. Their first-hand experiences give a firsthand look into disability history and awareness.

Museum of disABILITY History: Contact the museum for guest speakers and traveling exhibits, or visit the virtual museum on www.museumofdisability.org for its interactive timelines and exhibits. These are a just few examples of the wealth of information available through the museum.

Kids on the Block: Also available through the Museum of disABILITY History, Kids on the Block is an educational program that helps introduce disability awareness for children grades 3-4. It is also appropriate for older students through more explanatory presentations. Website: <http://www.kidsontheblockwny.org/>

Disability History Lesson Plans: Obtain lesson plans from any one of these sources, and use it for activities in the classroom, or to help plan a disability history event.

- From the Museum of disABILITY History, lesson plans are available for Grades K-12, aligned with NYS Learning Standards, with hands-on activities, various topics, and many different links and available media. For more information on obtaining lesson plans, call the Museum of disABILITY at (716) 817-7261.
- Other lesson plans: Disability Studies for Teachers: <http://www.disabilitystudiesforteachers.org/>
The Anti-Defamation League: http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/fall_2005/.

Boy Scouts of America: Disability Awareness Merit Badge

Disabilities Film Festival: Find and present movies with disability related themes, followed by a speaker or discussion. You can also attend People Inc.'s Disability Film Fest (<http://www.disabilityfilmfest.org/>) held the weekend prior to Disability History Week. Some examples of disability-related films are: *Body and Soul: Diana and Kathy*, *Murderball*, and *The Collector of Bedford Street*.

Disabilities Book Club Selection: An alternative to the film fest is to host a book club discussion on books written by or about people with disabilities. Some examples of appropriate books are: *Mozart and the Whale* by Jerry and Mary Newport with Johnny Dodd, *Look Me in the Eye* by John Elder Robison, and *The State Boys Rebellion* by Michael DiAntonio.

Highlight your Group's History: Put together a timeline with info. and photos about your group/agency! Hold a reception to celebrate your own history!