

Accessibility at the fair (and beyond!) is ExtraOrdinary! Unconferencing session

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Overview

A successful event requires careful attention to accessibility – registration, buildings, facilities, walkways, show arenas, entrances, exits.

Today we will explore everything you need to ensure that your event is accessible and welcoming to attendees of all abilities.

Agenda

- Legal requirements for accessibility
- Goals and cost of accessibility
- Disability prevalence
- Common access issues and solutions
- Accessibility checklist
- Examples
- Questions

Federal Disability Laws

- Architectural Barriers Act (1968)
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Section 504
- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

Goals for creating accessibility

- Be **proactive**, not **reactive**
- Plan event, site, fair or program to be accessible
- Remember the **Golden Rule** & treat others as you want to be treated
- How would you want to interact or attend any program, fair, event or site – without any restrictions.
- **That is YOUR goal**

Accommodation requests



Include a statement about requesting accommodations in advance on your website and marketing materials

To ask questions about accessibility or request accommodations, please contact (name) at (include phone and an email address so that someone with a hearing or verbal disability can make inquiries). At least two weeks' advance notice will help us to provide seamless access.

You cannot refuse accommodation requests made less than two weeks in advance; you do your best to provide the accommodation.

The host of the event is responsible for all costs associated with accommodations.

<https://ada.osu.edu/planning-accessible-event>

The cost of accessibility

- Many accommodations do not cost anything to provide, or may have a low cost
- Many accommodations increase safety and usability of the facility or program for everyone
- Any business or event that is open to the public must be accessible
- There is no exemption for temporary events, or events that are open “just a few weeks or days”

Disability in Ohio and U.S

14.4% of Ohioans have a disability

At some point in their lifetime, 70% of all Americans will have either a temporary or permanent disability

21% of Americans aged 15 and over have a disability

50% of Americans 65 years and older presently have some type of disability (Census, 2010).

*2022 Disability Status Report, Cornell University, based on American Community Survey data

Common Disability Access Issues

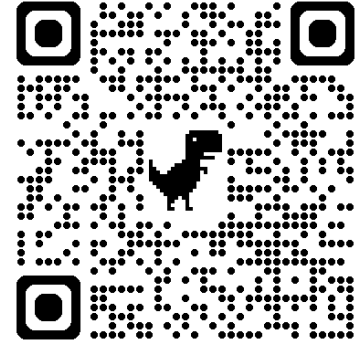
- Marketing and registration
- Parking
- Admission/ticket booths
- Registration table
- Vendors
- Accessible restrooms

Common Disability Access Issues and Solutions

- Paths of travel (aisles in barns, around show rings, to fields or demonstration areas)
- Stages
- Ring surfaces
- Penning, showing and moving animals
- Emergency exits and routes

Any other access issues?

Marketing and Registration



Be proactive and create materials that are accessible

- Screen reader compatible
- Printed programs in large text/electronic format
- Alt text for images
- Videos must be captioned
- Use descriptive text for hyperlinks
- <https://lod.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/program-and-product-development/accessibility>
- This video is from 2019, but is still relevant

Parking

Parking lot in a field or other non-typical parking lot

- Posts signs reserving accessible spaces (1 space per 25 non-accessible spaces)
- Put accessible spaces very close to the entrance
- **How else can you reserve accessible parking?**
- **What do you do if the parking area and the exhibit area/field demo are a distance from the parking area?**

Admission/registration table

- Limit barriers between the entrance and registration or admission table
- Provide hand-written signs with instructions in case you have a hearing-impaired attendee
- If the ticket booth is in a building, use a ramp instead of steps to make it accessible
- **How else can you make your admission or registration table accessible?**

Accessible signage

- Use **large print signs** to indicate accessible restrooms, entrances & exits
- **Written signs** with prices & FAQs
- **Examples of necessary signage?**
- **Where do you place the signage?**

Vendors

- Assure there is enough space between vendor booths for wheelchair and pedestrian access
- **Other thoughts on vendor placement and expectations?**

Accessible restrooms

Permanent **or** temporary

- 1 accessible stall per permanent bathroom
- Provide accessible portable bathrooms (if using portable)
- **Any other ideas on accessible restrooms?**

Paths of Travel/walkways

- Keep aisles and walkways clear – decorative and functional items, tools, hoses, etc...
- Do not hang plants or anything else from the ceiling at a height where someone can hit their head
- **Any other ideas on accessible walkways?**

Stages

- Stages should have ramps (if there is a possibility a person with a mobility impairment needs to access the stage)
- **What have you done to assure accessibility for events with stages and platforms?**

Ring surfaces

- The more compact the ring surface the easier for everyone
- Clear loose ring surface or relocate a class if you have an exhibitor with a mobility impairment or device
- **Any other ideas on accessible ring surfaces?**

Penning, showing and moving animals

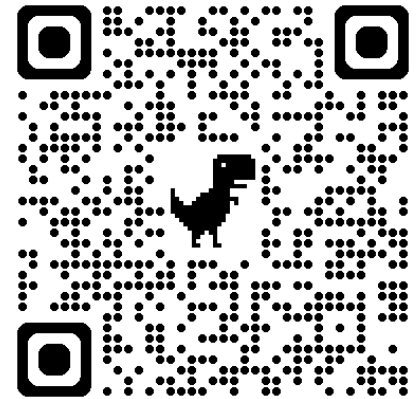
- Set up a pen in on the edge of the ring, or right outside the ring for animals
- Allow an exhibitor who needs to use a halter/lead use it, “tradition” does not matter
- **Any other ideas on penning, showing, moving and animals?**

Emergency exits and routes

- Ensure exit routes must be unobstructed by materials, locked doors or dead-end corridors
- Keep exit routes free of explosive or flammable furnishings and other decorations
- **What other tips do you have for accessible emergency exits and routes?**

Accessibility checklist

- **Disability advocacy and awareness project/idea starter: Community survey checklist**
- Parking lot
- Walkways and sidewalks
- Ramps and stairs
- Building and barn entrances
- Aisles and interior spaces
- Showrings
- Stages
- Restrooms



Questions?

For more information:
ohioagrability.osu.edu/resources

Or email Laura Akgerman, Akgerman.4@osu.edu

