

New England Center

August, 2014

Join the New England ADA Center at the Abilities Expo in Boston, September 5-7!

To commemorate the upcoming 25th anniversary of the historic passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA25), the long-anticipated ADA Legacy Tour will make a stop at the [Abilities Expo in Boston](#).



The New England ADA Center will be at the Abilities Expo, and admission to the Expo is free, so come visit us September 5-7, 2014 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Hall C.

The ADA Legacy Tour will feature the Road to Freedom Bus, a display on the history of self-advocacy and efforts to educate future generations of disability advocates and more.

Maine's Pine Tree Camp Opens First of Five New Accessible Cabins

The first of five new camper cabins designed by Access Design was officially opened by Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine, and dedicated as the Windover Cabin. The unique building program on the shore of North Pond is a great addition for campers this summer and will extend program opportunities into the fall and spring.



Access Design had the wonderful opportunity to be part of the project team with support provided from local contractors and businesses who value the impact that camp has for campers with disabilities and their families throughout Maine. [Learn more about the Pine Tree Camp cabin](#), [watch a video about the project](#), and thanks to Access Design and Alpha One for this story.

Attend Limb Loss Education Day (LLED) at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, August 16, 2014

Limb Loss Education Day (LLED) is a full day of education and recreation taking place at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, August 16, 2014 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. It will feature numerous activities, educational seminars and interactions between support groups, healthcare providers, and the limb loss community. Registration is \$15.



[Learn more.](#)

New England ADA Center Conducts a Field-Based Training Day in Ellsworth, Maine

IHCD's Josh Safdie facilitated a New England ADA Center field-based training day at the Ellsworth, Maine Public Library. Using tools including smart levels, tape measures and door pressure gauges, participants evaluated the accessibility of existing conditions such as the approach and entrance into the building and access to library services. This was one of five field-based training days that the New England ADA Center has organized in towns across New England this summer, and is part of a multiyear initiative. [Learn about applying for a New England ADA Center field-based training day in 2015!](#)



Photo: Josh Safdie and local participants at the Ellsworth, Maine field-based training.

Celebrations in Recognition of the 24th Anniversary of the ADA Held Across New England!



New Hampshire Governor's Accessibility Awards



Dunn State Park in Gardener, MA



Poetry Slam New England ADA Center

Throughout July, a variety of groups gathered across New England to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some of the events include the following:

- **New Hampshire, Governor Maggie Hassan** personally presented this year's Governor's Accessibility Awards. Winners were recognized for demonstrating best practices and / or offering services that are inclusive to individuals living with a disability.
- **Dunn State Park in Gardener, Massachusetts was once again the venue** for an ADA celebration featuring adaptive sports, live music, food and a barbecue. The event was sponsored by DCR's Universal Access Program and the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council.
- **The New England ADA Center** held a juried poetry slam and art exhibit featuring poets and artists with disabilities from the New England region. A streaming audio recording of the poetry slam can be accessed by [selecting this link](#) and scrolling down to "8/5/14 New England ADA Poetry Slam." Some of the exhibited art work is still available for purchase as well. [See our flyer](#) for more information about the artwork!
- **The Abilities Walk and Roll event** which included a one-mile walk, a

concert, food and prizes was held at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, Connecticut.

- **The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)** held an ADA anniversary picnic at Branbury State Park in Salisbury, Vermont.
- **The Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities** held a Disability Pride Parade and A.D.A. Celebration at Government Center. This was the first time a parade kicked-off the day.

Top-left photo, Front Row (L-R): Thomas O'Reilly, Lisa DiMartino, Ellen Edgerly, The Honorable Governor Maggie Hassan, Cynthia Caron. **Back Row (L-R):** Grant W. Kelly, David Caron, Christopher Brown, Captain Michael Dudash, accepting for Chief Mark E. Doyle, and Charles J. Saia.

Top-right photo: DCR's Tom McCarthy at Dunn State Park by the Check-In for All Out Adventures accessible kayaking.

Centered photo: Colin Killick recites some of his original poetry as the New England ADA Center celebrates ADA 24 with a poetry slam and art exhibition.

News From Other States

Advocates Rally for CRPD Ratification

On July 29th, 2014, advocates from around the country, including hundreds visiting Washington, DC for the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference and annual march onto Capitol Hill, gathered to rally for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Disability advocates including American Paralympic athletes were addressed by members of Congress and nationally recognized disability community leaders, all calling for the U.S. Senate to finish the job of ratifying CRPD. While passage fell short this session, the push for ratification will continue when the full U.S. Congress reconvenes.



Photo: Rhode Island Congressman Jim Langevin joined by disability advocates including American Paralympic athletes (L-R) Cheri Blauwet (red shirt), Keith Gabel (aqua shirt - standing), Muffy Davis (blue shirt) and Candace Cable (black shirt).

EEOC Says Reasonable Accommodation Required for All Pregnant Workers

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued [Enforcement Guidance](#) on Pregnancy Discrimination and Related Issues, along with a [question and answer document](#) about the guidance and a [Fact Sheet for Small Businesses](#). The Enforcement Guidance, Q&A document, and Fact Sheet will be available on the EEOC's website. The guidance discusses the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended in 2008, to individuals who have pregnancy-related disabilities, when employers may have to provide reasonable accommodations for workers with pregnancy-related impairments under the ADA, and the types of accommodations that may be necessary.



[Read more.](#)

U.S. Access Board: A Summary of Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has developed [accessibility guidelines for trails, camping and picnic facilities, viewing areas, and beach access routes](#) through extensive public input from the disability community, Federal land management agencies, and other interested individuals and organizations.



This information has been developed and reviewed in accordance with the Access Board's information quality guidelines.

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