# **Blind and Low Vision Communication Access Tips**

Blind/Low Vision individuals have varying levels of vision not all individual use a service animal or cane – you may not know they have a disability until they self-identify

**Introduce yourself**: “Hi, I’m Jessica, I am director of Visitor Services here at the Park.” This way they learn who you are and can identify your voice when you are speaking.

**Wayfinding Assistance:**

* Ask if person needs assistance. If person says yes, ask how they would like assistance. Offer an elbow and provide explanation of directions as you move– we will turn right here to the restroom and the door is on the left.
* Some may prefer directional assistance – the registration table is at your 3 o’clock
* Point out any protruding objects sticking out of the wall or on the ground

**Alternative Formats**

Be prepared to have materials in alternative format, including large print (size 18-24, sans serif), or electronic format, compatible with a screen reader (avoid pdf documents), or Braille (Note: less than 10% of blind/low vision individuals can read braille, most rely on assistive technology ).

**Audio Description**

If you have an event or program, be prepared to provide audio description (a visual description of the event, such as two actors shaking hands during a play, or description of a monument during a walking tour)

**Virtual Meetings**

* Provide any shared materials ahead of time so the person can read using their assistive technology
* Provide visual description of speakers (I’m a white woman with brown hair, wearing a red dress, with a window behind me)
* Be conscious of chat use – the chat is inaccessible on Zoom – assign someone to read the chat or minimize use