

WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

The National Federation of the Blind celebrates "White Cane Awareness Day" every year on October 15.

For blind people, the white cane is an essential tool that gives us the ability to achieve a full and independent life. It allows us to move freely and safely from place to place, whether it's at work, at school, or around our neighborhoods.

HOW WHITE CANES WORK

We use our senses of hearing and touch to explore and understand the world around us. The white cane, in effect, makes our hands and arms longer, so that we can assess the situation, and move quickly and confidently. The white cane allows us to avoid obstacles, find steps and curbs, locate and step over cracks or uneven places in the sidewalk, find doorways, get into cars and buses, and much more.

THE HISTORY OF WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

While it was not uncommon throughout history for blind people to use a stick or cane to navigate, society largely didn't accept that blind people could travel by ourselves until recently. In the 1960s, the National Federation of the Blind became a leader in fighting for the rights of the blind and in pioneering innovative training programs using the white cane. At our urging, the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution in 1964 designating October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day and recognizing that white canes enable blind people to travel safely and independently.

While the white cane does keep blind people safe (because drivers and other pedestrians can easily see it), it is also a tool that blind people use to explore and navigate our environment. For this reason, the emphasis of White Cane Safety Day has shifted over time away from safety, and toward independence and equality. We believe that it's important to celebrate this history and recognize the white cane as the tool that allows the blind to "come and go on their own" as President Lyndon Johnson said back in 1964.

To emphasize the shift in focus from safety to independence, and to continue to use the white cane as a symbol, we have chosen to refer to this day as White Cane Awareness Day.

MATCH THE SENTENCES WITH THE CORRECT NUMBER

1.International white cane awareness day is..		joint resolution designating October 15th of each year, as "the white can safety day"
2.The NFB stands for …		to move around easily.
3.The white cane allows blind people….		National Federation of the Blind.
4.The United States Congress adopted a		emphasize the shift in focus from safety to independence.
5.President Lyndon Johnson said in 1964…		a guide dog to move freely from place to place.
6.White Cane Safety day is now **White Cane Awareness Day** to …		that the white cane allowed the blind to "come and go on their own"
7.The blind can also use …		in October 15th

DRAG WORDS TO THE PICTURES WITH THE CORRECT MEANING

				
Independence	**Congress**	**White cane**	**A guide dog**	**The visually impaired**

Courtesy Rules of Blindness

I am a blind person. Please say hello and get to know me! I want people to feel comfortable around me. Here are some simple tips.

Cane – My cane (or guide dog) is my independent travel aid. If you think I might need help, please just ask me.

Ordinary – Blind people are ordinary. It feels awkward if you think I am amazing when I accomplish ordinary tasks like walking or tying my shoes. I also like ordinary things and have ordinary hobbies. It is okay to be amazed if I do something really exceptional.

Understand – I may not recognize your voice if I don't know you well. Please say, "Hi, it is Sue."

Remember – I may have some sight, but use nonvisual techniques and tools like a cane because it works best for me. Sometimes people think I am "faking" because I see a little, but I am just picking techniques that are most efficient and safe in light of my vision.

Talk – Please talk to me rather than a companion, and there is no need to speak up so just use your normal speaking voice and talk with me like you would with other people.

Experience – I probably have years of experience using nonvisual techniques to live my life. Feel free to ask me how I do something, or how best you can assist me, if help is needed.

See – It's ok to still use words such as see and look. I will talk with you like everyone else, although I may not be able to make direct eye contact.

Yield – In all 50 states, the law requires drivers to yield the right of way when they see my extended white cane or guide dog. Only the blind may legally carry white canes. I listen to traffic patterns to know when to cross streets and to keep a straight line when moving around.

SEARCH FOR THE MEANING OF THESE WORDS ON THE INTERNET

YIELD:	**CEDA EL PASO**
AWARENESS:	
CANE:	
FAKING:	
SPEAK UP:	
EYE CONTACT:	
SIGHT:	
TIE YOUR SHOES:	
TRAVEL AID:	
CROSS STREETS:	
AMAZED:	

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE WORDS FROM ABOVE

1) Be careful when you _____ _____, the traffic is terrible.
2) My friends were _____ when they got the results of their exams!!
3) Don't forget to _____ _____ _____ otherwise you'll fall.
4) I use my white _____ as my _____ _____.
5) I lost my _____ when I was 3 years old, I can't see anything.
6) Just because a blind person can't make _____ _____ doesn't mean they are not paying attention to you.
7) Cars should always _____ the way when they see a white cane or a guide dog.
8) It is very important to raise _____ about the rights of the visually impaired.
9) People don't need to _____ _____ when they talk to a blind person, they are not deaf.
10) Some people think I am _____ because I use a white cane to move around, although I can see a little, but I feel more secure to move around.

