

CELEBRATE 3.21 • FOR THE TEAM

Story Collection Kit

Their story, their way



Everything the team needs to gather real, consented stories for the website, social media, and the Canal Winchester page: the process, a story consent and release form, an Easy-Read consent page, a photo and video release, interview questions, and a story template.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 How to collect stories
- 2 Story consent & release
- 3 Easy-Read consent
- 4 Photo & video release
- 5 Interview questions
- 6 Story template & checklist

START HERE

Collecting stories the right way

Stories are the heart of Celebrate 3.21. The goal is at least **three real, consented stories** before the Stories page goes live.

THE STORY PROCESS

- 1 **Invite**
Ask people who've said they'd like to share. Never pressure anyone.
- 2 **Consent**
Get the Story Consent form signed, plus the Easy-Read version for self-advocates.
- 3 **Interview**
Use the family or self-advocate questions. 20 to 30 minutes, in person or by video.
- 4 **Draft**
Write 150 to 300 words using the story template.
- 5 **Review**
The storyteller reads and approves every word and photo before anything is shared.
- 6 **Share and thank**
Publish, send them the link, and say thank you. They can ask to remove it anytime.

OUR STORY PRINCIPLES

- People with Down syndrome tell their own stories whenever they can
- Whole-person stories: work, friends, faith, goals, humor
- Never pity, never "inspiration" framing
- Their words, their photos, their approval
- First names only unless they choose otherwise

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Self-advocates (teens and adults)
- Families, siblings, and grandparents
- Businesses and employers who include
- Teachers, coaches, and church leaders
- Friends who show up

GOOD TO KNOW

Template only. Have Continue the Story's attorney review this form before use. Keep signed forms in a secure folder. Track each story's status: invited, consented, interviewed, drafted, approved, published.

FORM

Story consent & release

Template only. Have Continue the Story's attorney review this form before use.

Storyteller's name _____ Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Is the storyteller under 18?

- ☐ No, I am signing for myself
- ☐ Yes, a parent or guardian is signing below
- ☐ The storyteller is an adult with a legal guardian, who is also signing

I give Celebrate 3.21 (a program of Continue the Story) permission to share:

- ☐ My story, in words I approve
- ☐ My first name
- ☐ My full name
- ☐ Photos that show my face
- ☐ Only photos of feet, hands, or crafts
- ☐ Video or audio
- ☐ Quotes from my interview

Where it may be shared:

- ☐ Celebrate321.org
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Printed materials and signs
- ☐ News media and press releases
- ☐ Presentations and events

I understand that:

- I will review and approve my story and photos before they are shared.
- I can say no to any question, photo, or use.
- I can ask to have my story removed later, and Celebrate 3.21 will remove it from its own website and accounts. Things already printed or shared by others may not be recallable.
- I will not be paid for sharing my story, unless we agree otherwise in writing.
- My phone, email, and address will never be shared publicly.

Storyteller signature _____ Date _____

Parent or guardian signature (if needed) _____ Date _____

FOR SELF-ADVOCATES

My story, my choice

Read this with someone you trust. You can change your mind anytime.



☐ I want to share my story.

☐ I do not want to share.



☐ You can use my name.

☐ Do not use my name.



☐ You can use photos of my face.

☐ Only photos of my feet or hands.



☐ You can post it online.

☐ Do not post it online.

I KNOW THAT

- I will see my story before anyone else.
- I can say "stop" anytime.
- I can ask to take my story down later.

SIGN HERE

My name: _____

Date: _____

Supporter or guardian (if needed):

NOTE FOR THE INTERVIEWER

Adults with Down syndrome sign for themselves unless they have a legal guardian. Use both this page and the full consent form. Read each choice aloud, give time, and accept every answer.

FORM

Photo & video release

For events, story times, and celebrations. Template only. Have Continue the Story's attorney review this form before use.

Name of person in photos _____ Event or activity _____

Parent or guardian (if under 18) _____ Date _____

I give Celebrate 3.21 permission to use photos and video of the person named above:

- ☐ Yes, including their face
- ☐ Yes, but feet, hands, and crafts only
- ☐ No photos or video, please

They may be used on:

- ☐ Celebrate321.org
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Print and signs
- ☐ News media

Please:

- ☐ Use first name only
- ☐ Don't use any name
- ☐ Check with me before each use

No names, schools, or locations are posted with a child's photo. I can withdraw this permission in writing anytime; Celebrate 3.21 will stop new uses and remove photos from its own website and accounts.

Signature _____ Date _____

AT EVENTS

- Give out wristbands or stickers for "no photos, please"
- Feet and sock photos are always the safest choice
- Post a sign: "We're taking photos today. Let us know if you'd rather not be in them."

KEEP IT SAFE

- Store signed releases in one secure folder
- Log who said yes, and to what
- Delete photos when someone withdraws

INTERVIEW GUIDES

Questions to ask

Pick 5 or 6. Let the conversation wander. The best stories come from follow-ups like “Tell me more about that.”

FAMILY INTERVIEW

1. Tell us about your family. Who’s in it, and what do you love doing together?
2. What is [name] like? What makes [him/her/them] laugh? What are [his/her/their] favorite things?
3. What is [name] really good at, or working hard on right now?
4. What’s a moment when [name] felt like [he/she/they] truly belonged?
5. Who in Canal Winchester has made your family feel welcome? What did they do?
6. What do you wish more people knew about Down syndrome, or about your family?
7. What would make our town even more welcoming?
8. What are you most excited about for 3.21?
9. Is there anything you’d like us NOT to include?

SELF-ADVOCATE INTERVIEW

1. What’s your name? How old are you?
2. What do you like to do? (Hobbies, sports, music, shows)
3. Do you go to school, work, or both? What do you do there?
4. Who are your friends? What do you do together?
5. What are you proud of?
6. What is your dream or goal?
7. What do you want people to know about you?
8. What do you want people to know about Down syndrome?
9. How do you want to celebrate 3.21?

Tips: ask one question at a time, offer choices or pictures, wait, and let them answer in their own way. A supporter can help, but the answers are theirs.

WRITING IT UP

The story template

150 to 300 words. Short sentences. Their voice first.

HEADLINE

Their name plus one thing that makes them them.
Example format: "Meet [name], [the town's biggest Reds fan]."

OPENING (1-2 SENTENCES)

Start with who they are and what they love, not the diagnosis.

THE MIDDLE (2-3 SHORT PARAGRAPHS)

A real moment, in their words. What they're proud of.
Who made them feel welcome.

PULL QUOTE

One sentence in the storyteller's own words, set large.

THE ASK (1 SENTENCE)

What they hope Canal Winchester will do: "Invite someone new to lunch," "hire," "wear your socks."

PHOTOS

- One strong photo they chose
- Optional: 2 or 3 more (activities, family, socks)
- Alt text for each

BEFORE YOU PUBLISH

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Storyteller approved every word | ☐ Storyteller approved every photo |
| ☐ Consent form signed and filed | ☐ Uses their preferred words |
| ☐ No medical details they didn't choose to share | ☐ No school, schedule, or address |
| ☐ Celebrates the whole person | ☐ Alt text written |