



A Day in the Life of a Local Black Interpreter

Presenter: Sarah Houston

Target Audience: All 2021 Udderly Coda Time retreat participants are codas. All attending the retreat are welcome to participate in this workshop (includes coda interpreters, coda students, coda non-interpreters).

LOC: Ingleside Conference Center, Pewaukee, WI

Date/Time: October 3, 2021 (11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)

In this closing presentation, Ms. Houston will share her story growing up as a Black Coda to what she has encountered as a Black interpreter in her community of origin. The presenter will also discuss aspects of community partnership with the Black interpreting community. Her experience in navigating language and culture from this perspective lends to identifying unique language characteristics and nuances of African American Vernacular English (AAVE), ASL in the Black Deaf community as well as the communities that intersect with them. Language is a vehicle that can serve to oppress or empower people in any social circumstance. The language choices we make as interpreters are critical to successful and meaningful communication. Ms. Houston will introduce behavior and language suggestions toward being better allies with the Black Deaf community. Her presentation will lead into a brief open and guided discussion where participants will engage in the practical application of this extra-linguistic knowledge. This activity will support their work in the Black Deaf community.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to identify several unique aspects of being a Black Coda interpreter, including experiential knowledge about how language can be used to navigate oppression and discrimination and experiential knowledge about social norms that distinguish one group from another, impacting how groups interact with one another. Participants will also be able to apply social behaviors towards being better allies with the Black interpreting community.

*.1 CEU's

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