



How to Host a Deaf Podcast Guest

Podcasts have exploded in popularity. But aren't podcasts just for hearing people? Nope! Podcasts can be for deaf people, too. Stephanie is an avid fan of several podcasts and has been a guest on some.

Here's how to make your podcast an accessible experience for deaf guests and subscribers – and for a broad audience that uses or prefers multiple communication modalities such as captions and video.

- Ask what communication modalities and supports your guest prefers. (Stephanie usually lets the host know in advance if she's not asked.)
- Record the podcast on Zoom or another platform, complete with captions and video of all participants.
- An ASL interpreter may be used. Stephanie and her designated interpreter have worked together in many "live" high-stakes media and recorded events.
- If possible, provide the questions or topics ahead of time. Stephanie provides key phrases and concepts with her ASL interpreter to prepare her in advance and ensure a smooth conversation.
- For optimal accessibility for all, the final edited episode should include ASL video and audio with captions (shared on YouTube or another public video platform), audio on the podcast channel, and a link in both descriptions to a full transcript.
- Speaking of the episode description, this is a good place to explain to your audience that your guest is deaf, the accommodations your podcast provided, who is speaking and who is signing, and the role of the interpreter – so people are clear on what is what (and who is who)!