

Color Communication Badges



Color Communication Badges are a system which were first developed in Autistic spaces and conferences. **They help people tell everyone who can see their badge about their communication preferences.**

A color communication badge is a name tag holder that can pin or clip onto clothing. In the name tag holder there are three cards: one green card that says “GREEN”, one yellow card that says “YELLOW”, and one red card that says “RED.”

The card that is currently visible is the active card; the other two are hidden behind the first one, accessible to the person if they should need them.

Showing a **green badge** means that the person is **actively seeking communication**; they have trouble initiating conversations, but want to be approached by people who are interested in talking.

Showing a **yellow badge** means that the person **only wants to talk to people they recognize**, not by strangers or people they only know from the Internet. The badge-wearer might approach strangers to talk, and that is okay; the approached people are welcome to talk back to them in that case. But unless you have already met the person face-to-face, you should not approach them to talk.

Showing a **red badge** means that the person **probably does not want to talk to anyone**, or only wants to talk to a few people. The person might approach others to talk, and that is okay; the approached people are welcome to talk back

to them in that case. But unless you have been told already by the badge-wearer that you are on their “red list”, you should not approach them to talk.

Color communication badges are a good aid because they allow people to **express their current communication preference quickly, nonverbally, and simply** - people can change what card is showing if their preference changes. They are a good way to prevent situations where someone is caught in a social situation they do not want to be in, or situations where someone wants to talk but can't initiate.

This means that communication badges can help make conferences, conventions, meetings, college campuses, and other spaces more accessible. People with communication impairments, people who have trouble expressing their communication preferences, and people who have trouble reading social cues about communication preference, may find color communication badges useful.

Color communication badges also help all people, abled or disabled, to more easily and effectively let people know whether they want to be approached for conversations or not. This can create a positive impact on the social atmosphere where communication badges are being used.

If you have any questions about the color communication badge system, please contact ASAN by email at info@autisticadvocacy.org.

This Resource Guide was developed for ASAN's Pacific Alliance on Disability Self-Advocacy project. Pacific Alliance is an effort funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to support self advocacy groups with technical assistance. For more about the ASAN or the Pacific Alliance, visit us at www.autisticadvocacy.org.



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The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) is a non-profit organization run by and for autistic people. ASAN provides support and services to individuals on the autism spectrum while working to change public perception and combat misinformation. Our activities include public policy advocacy, community engagement to encourage inclusion and respect for neurodiversity, quality of life oriented research and the development of autistic cultural activities.