

A PRESENTATION FROM THE DISABILITIES AWARENESS COMMITTEE

ABILITIES AWARENESS

Program & Planning Strategies for Working with Scouts with Disabilities

Expiration Date

This presentation is not to be used after Dec. 31, 2019.

Obtain an updated version at

www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx



Objective

Provide Scout leaders with strategies for successful meetings and events in Scouting.



Know Your Scout

- Scout's strengths
- Scout's challenges
- Scout's goals
- *Know Your Scout* handout



Know Your Unit

- What are the Scout's disabilities
- Medications
- Safety considerations
- Size of the group
- Unit experiences



Communicating With Your Scout

- Avoid a lot of noise and distractions
- Reword your questions
- Break your directions into smaller steps
- Allow time to answer you
- Get to the point
- If you do not understand, ask him to repeat it



Challenges You May Experience

- Sensory Issues
- Managing your Meeting
- Social Integration
- Adaptations and Modifications
- Accessibility



Sensory Issues

- Taste
- Sound
- Sight
- Touch
- Smell



Managing your Meeting

- Picture or word schedule of the meeting
- Use stations with hands-on activities
- Use multiple speakers
- Give a time warning
- Have a break card available



Social Integration

- Peer Buddy
- Adult Scouter as mentor
- Assign an area for participation
- May have to increase participation time



When There Are Issues

- Managing behaviors
- Parent participation
- Shorten meetings
- Inability to participate



Accommodations and Modifications

- Understanding the Terms
- Timing
- Scheduling
- Setting
- Presentation
- Response



Physical and Medical Accessibility

- Facility and building
- Routes, pathways, doorways
- Access to medical personnel & facilities



Language Accessibility

- Allow the Scout to choose the answer to your question
- Use photos
- Creative ways to “explain”
- Use a speaker or scribe
- Use assistive technology



Small Group Event Strategies

Areas to address:

- Mobility Needs
- Program Accessibility Needs
- Sensory Needs
- Personal Care Needs
- Resources Available



Large Group Event Strategies

Areas to address:

- Transportation Needs
- Camping Needs
- Program Accessibility Needs
- Sensory Needs
- Personal Care Needs
- Resources Available

Resources

Scout Leaders:

- Leaders in your unit, district, and council with knowledge of working with disabilities
- District and Council Disabilities Awareness committees
- disabilities.awareness@scouting.org

Scouting.org:

- A Guide to working with Scouts with DisABILITIES <http://scouting.org/filestore/pdf/510-071.pdf>
- Individual Scout Achievement, No. 512-936
- BSA Disabilities Awareness web page <http://scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx>

Books:

- The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome by Tony Attwood
- It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success by Richard Lavoie
- 101 Games for Groups by Maxie Ashton B.Sc. (OT) & Lana Varga RN, RPN