



Scouters Special Needs Guide

Introduction (FUN is Mandatory)



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-Scout Leaders Guide- Objectives

- Mainstreaming
- Parents Pre-Joining Conference
- Membership Requirements
- Advancement Guidelines
- Role of the Adult or Unit Leader
- Resources for Special Needs Youth



Mainstreaming



Mainstreaming

How do we decide to Mainstream a Scout or to place them into a special needs specific unit?

Experience has shown that youth typically do better when placed in a traditional scout unit as part of a den or a patrol within the Pack or Troop.



Mainstreaming

- Many Scouts with special needs can accomplish the basic skills of Scouting.

- With a little extra time and a little extra attention, these Scouts usually need few modifications when learning new skills.



Mainstreaming

- To the fullest extent possible, Scouts with special needs should be given opportunities to camp, hike and take part in all Scouting activities within their abilities.



Mainstreaming

- Most Scout activities work well when the ***UNIT LEADERSHIP*** has sufficient time to adapt the program to the ***facility and the ability*** of the Scout.



Mainstreaming

Patience:

- Train to give the extra effort
- Practice and lead by example

Understanding:

- Between unit leaders and parents or guardians
- Between special needs Scout and fellow Scouts



Parents Pre-joining Conference



Parents Pre-joining Conference

Prior to joining a Scout unit, Parents and Scout should meet with the Scout Leader to explaining the prospective Scout's special needs.



Pre-joining conference

Issues that should be
discussed are as follows:



Pre-joining conference

- Physical Disabilities
- Mental Capabilities
- General Characteristics
- Medication
- Discipline
- Diet and eating Disorders



Pre-Joining conference

- Living Skills
- Transportation
- Unit Operation
- Emergency Procedures



Advancement Guidelines



National BSA Requirement

BSA Policy – The medical condition of all candidates for membership beyond the normal registration age must be certified by a licensed health-care provider.

(use the Personal Health and Medical Record form, No.34412A, in appendix B)



Advancement Guidelines

- Any corrective measures, restrictions, or limitations must be noted.
- In the case of candidates with mental retardation or emotional disturbance, their condition must be certified by a statement signed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist.



Advancement Guidelines

- Current health, medical, or certification records of all youth members with disabilities who are beyond the normal registration age are to be retained in the unit file at the council service center.



Advancement Guidelines

- A Scout who has a permanent physical or mental disability and is unable to complete all of the requirements for advancement may submit a request to the council advancement committee to complete alternate requirements.



Advancement Guidelines

- Do as many standard requirements as possible
- Secure a medical statement
- Prepare a request for Alternate requirements
- Submit to District and then to Council advancement committee for review



Conclusion

- Your role as a leader should follow the guidelines listed in the unit leaders guide book
- Always use the “Safe guide to Scouting”
- Refer to the “Scouts with Special Needs Guide” frequently
- Search online for resources



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Questions?

