

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

SND 101 Serving Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities



Course Objective

Providing the necessary tools and knowledge to empower leaders and volunteers to support a positive, enriching experience for Scouts with special needs and disabilities.



Course Topics

- Mentoring & Guidance
- Collaborative Efforts
- Adaptive Approaches
- Promote Understanding
- Community Engagement
- Training & Resources
- Celebrating Achievements
- Available Support



“We are more alike than we are different”

- Maya Angelou

It is essential to recognize that youth with disabilities share the same requirements for success and acceptance, both socially and emotionally, as their peers.



Point to Ponder

In the context of Scouting, youth with disabilities can be considered an underserved community due to potential barriers to full participation in traditional Scouting activities.



What is a disability?

A disability is a condition that may limit a person's movements, senses, or activities.

Disability Categories

- Physical
- Learning
- Cognitive or Developmental
- Emotional
- Social



Offering Support to Leaders

- Encourage Positive Interactions
- Collaborate with families
- Develop Individualized Strategies
- Promote Inclusivity



Every Scout Deserves a Leader

Who exemplifies the Scout Law and Oath by being...

- Inclusive and Supportive
- Effective Communicator
- Empathetic and Compassionate
- Adaptable and Flexible
- Safety-Conscious

But most of all.... Is passionate about Scouting



Offering Support to Scouts

Be Proactive

- Seek ways to support Scouts facing difficulties, even if they have not received a diagnosis or if their situation has not been disclosed to you.



Mentoring

“How can we ensure the Scout is successfully experiencing all that Scouting has to offer?”

- Meet regularly with Leaders
- Praise successes
- Encourage Joining Conference for Scouts



Inclusion Toolbox

Provides the necessary tools and knowledge to empower leaders and volunteers

Includes:

- Training materials
- Resources for adapting activities,
- Guides for creating individualized support plans



Community Engagement

Abilities Digest is the quarterly publication of the BSA National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee.

The articles are written by Scouting volunteers and are intended to share practices and procedures

Able Scouts Newsletter - Abilities Digest

<https://ablescouts.org/subscribe/>



Advancement Support

- Cub Scout, Scouts BSA and Venturing advancement
- [Alternate Rank Requirement](#)
- [Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges](#)
- [Participation Beyond the Age of Eligibility](#)
- Time extensions to earn the Eagle Scout rank



Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP)

- The “ISAP” is a Scouting version of an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Used to lay the groundwork for alternative requirements.
- [No. 512-935](#)



Point to Ponder

Recognize and **CELEBRATE** the achievements and successes of Scouts within our community to promote inclusivity and positive reinforcement.



Resources

- National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee
 - <https://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/>
- National Special Needs and Disabilities Roundtables
 - <https://ablescouts.org/tag/snd-roundtable/>
- Inclusion Toolbox
 - <https://ablescouts.org/toolbox/>
- Able Scouts website
 - <https://ablescouts.org/>
- Able Scouts Newsletter - Abilities Digest
 - <https://ablescouts.org/subscribe/>



Support

- Social Media Accounts
 - Facebook: No Scout Left Behind: A Guide to Working with Scouts with Disabilities
 - Instagram: No_Scout_Left_Behind
- National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee Chair email (for answers and assistance for any Special Needs questions/issues)
 - SpecialNeedsChair@scouting.org



In Conclusion

- Thinking about this experience
 - Do the Scouting units in my district, or council practice this type of inclusiveness?
 - How can I change my current approach to prepare leaders to be better prepared to support the Scouts in today's programs?

