

## Accommodating for Success

Scouting supports and promotes full inclusion. **Most Scouts** with disabilities **participate in traditional units** in their local communities. Some, due to family choice, peer group, or specialized needs or interests might join a special needs unit. In either environment, thoughtful planning and cooperation can ensure success along the Scouting path.

**Accommodations** are **individual, situational, and task-specific.**



The needs of the Scout and the desired outcomes are the starting points. Unit activities not related to rank and advancement requirements allow for greater flexibility. Other situations might need to be accommodated in reference to the current *Guide to Advancement*.

Creativity, communication, planning, and follow-through are the hallmarks of creating a **successful Scouting journey**.

## Looking for Support?

Delivering the Scouting program to any Scout can be tremendously rewarding for volunteer leaders. While **each Scout is unique**, extra challenges might present themselves when working with Scouts with differing abilities and special needs. The BSA, along with the National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee, has compiled resources for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals, to assist in including youth of all abilities in Scouting.



### General Interest

[www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities](http://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities)

Able Scouts: [ablescouts.org](http://ablescouts.org)

Inclusion Toolbox: [ablescouts.org](http://ablescouts.org)

Abilities Digest:

[facebook.com/abilitiesdigest](https://facebook.com/abilitiesdigest)

### Advancement

*Guide to Advancement:*

[www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement](http://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement)

Refer to sections on Rank, Merit Badges, Registration, and Individual Scout Advancement Plan



## Seeking Inspiration?

The National Special Needs and Disability Committee has developed an online reference tool. The **Inclusion Toolbox** is an easy-to-use, searchable, and updatable source. Created in collaboration with a wide range of medical, educational, and special-needs experts, it provides information related to **specific disabilities and Scouting concerns**. This is the place to go if you have questions. Find ideas for supporting the needs of Scouts with differing abilities. Discover ways to address camping, health, safety, waterfront, organizational, and many more Scout-related concerns.



Inclusion Toolbox



## Why Join Scouting?

Scouts BSA is one of the nation's preeminent **values-based** youth development organizations.

It provides **growth opportunities** for:

**Character building,  
Citizenship and Service  
Interest-based skills  
Physical fitness,  
Leadership,  
Social skills,  
STEAM**

Since 1910 the BSA has helped to enhance the lives of individuals, families, and communities by combining educational activities and lifelong **values with fun**.

Guided by the **Scout Oath** and **Scout Law**, it is the vision of the BSA to prepare every eligible youth in America (regardless of gender) to become the **best**, most responsible citizen **they can be**.



Involvement in Scouts BSA programs contributes to building a more **responsible, productive, and inclusive society**.

## You are invited to join!

Interested? Have Questions?

*Please Contact*



**BSA National Special Needs and  
Disabilities Committee**

[www.scouting.org/resources/  
disabilities-awareness](http://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness)  
[specialneedschair@scouting.org](mailto:specialneedschair@scouting.org)

## Scout Us All In!



**Join us for**

Lasting Friendships

Fun and Adventure

Character Development

Skills and Learning

Family Fun

### **A History of Inclusion**

The BSA is a values-based youth development program that has **included youth with** emotional, mental, and physical disabilities since its founding. We continue to be committed to expanding resources that support a successful Scouting journey for youth with both **visible and invisible disabilities**. Environmental adaptations, varied instructional methods, and mindful planning can support meaningful participation in



Scouting starting at **age five through adulthood** as appropriate.

**National Special Needs and Disabilities  
Committee — Boy Scouts of America**

[www.scouting.org/resources/  
disabilities-awareness](http://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness)