

Scouts With Disabilities and Special Needs

The Scout Handbook has had braille editions for many years; merit badge pamphlets have been recorded on cassette tapes for the blind; and closed-caption training videos have been produced for those who are deaf. In 1965, registration of over-age Scouts with mental disabilities became possible—a privilege now extended to many people with disabilities. Today, approximately 100,000 Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venturers with disabilities are registered with Scouting America in more than 4,000 units chartered to community organizations.

REACH out to all Scouts to be sure they are part of the group.

R – RESPECT

E – ENCOURAGE

A – ACCEPT

C – CARE

H – HONOR

District Champions

Wayne Bernacki (TriStar)

Alison Buckley (Checaugau)

Jesse Casiano (Thunderbird)

MarcyJo Chachakis (Calumet)

Bill Egan (Iron Horse) (Therapy Dogs)

Betsy Gates-Ehlers (Trailblazer)

Bill Howard (Portage Creek)

Colleen Leahy (Tall Grass)

David Leahy (Tall Grass)

Rodney Skrzynski (Five Creeks)



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Chicago IL. 60607
312-421-8800



Website:

[https://pathwaytoadventure.org/
scouts-with-special-needs](https://pathwaytoadventure.org/scouts-with-special-needs)

Email:

SNS@pathwaytoadventure.org

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with disabilities is that all youth want to participate fully and be respected like every other member of the unit. While there are, by necessity, units exclusively composed of Scouts with disabilities, experience has shown that Scouting usually succeeds best when every Scout is part of a typical unit.

Scouting America Serving Scouts With Disabilities

<https://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/>

We strive to provide individuals with special needs opportunities to participate to the best of their abilities in an all-inclusive Scouting program offered by Boy Scouting America.

Since its founding in 1910, the Scouting America has had fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive, was a person with a disability. Although most of the BSA's efforts have been directed at keeping such youth in the mainstream of Scouting, it has also recognized the special needs of those with significant disabilities.

"Scouting helps by giving Scouts with disabilities an opportunity to prove to themselves and to others that they can do things-and difficult things too-for themselves." - Lord Baden Powell

Resources:

Individual Scout Advancement Plan

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-936_WB.pdf

Guide to Advancement – Advancement for Scouts with Special Needs

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/gta-section-10.pdf>

Special Needs in Scouting - Pathway To Adventure Council

<https://pathwaytoadventure.org/special-needs-in-scouting/>

Scouting with Special Needs and Disabilities Information Sheet

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/specialneedsinformationsheet.pdf>

Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-935_wb.pdf

Application for Alternate Eagle Rank Merit Badges

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-730.pdf>

Examples of Disabilities

(not an exhaustive list, just some examples)

Physical

Cerebral Palsy (CP), Epilepsy, Vision, Hearing, Loss of Limb, Prosthetic

Learning

Dyslexia (reading), Dysgraphia (writing)

Cognitive or Developmental

Intellectual, Autism Spectrum

Emotional

Bipolar disorder, Depression, Anxiety

Social

ADHD

NVLD

(Non-verbal Learning Disability)

