

Scouting with Special Needs and Disabilities

Program Planning



Know Your Scout

- Scout's strengths
- Scouts challenges
- Scout's goals

Tips in Communicating with Your Scout

- Give Scout specific tasks
- Keep instructions clear and simple
- Minimize distractions
- Reward efforts as well as work well done
- Keep the entire group in mind

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

Adaptive Approaches

- Materials Adaptation
- Architectural Adaptation
- Leisure Companion Adaptation
- Cooperative Group Adaptation
- Behavior Adaptation

Inclusion Versus Disability Specific Units

- Inclusive Units
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages
- Disability Specific Units
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages

Scouting with Special Needs and Disabilities

Special Needs Scouting - ADHD



Characteristics and Types of ADHD

- Characteristics
- Inattentive Type
- Hyperactive Type

Focus on the Scout's Strengths!

- Energetic
- Bright
- Creative
- Enthusiastic
- Flexible
- Inquisitive

Tips for Working with ADHD Scouts

- Getting to Know Your Scout
 - Have a conversation
 - Scout's strengths and challenges
- Work with Parents on Tips for Success
 - Sensitivity issues
 - Sleeping issues
 - Issues with large groups
- Time management
 - State your expectations
 - Give a time warning
 - Break up directions

Tips for Working with ADHD Scouts

- Compliment the Scout Whenever you Find a Genuine Opportunity
 - Ignore minor inappropriate behavior if it is not dangerous or disruptive
 - Try to “sandwich” correction between two positive comments
 - Give clear and concise limits
- Be Aware of Early Warning Signs - Fidgety behavior may indicate that a Scout is losing impulse control
 - Schedule breaks
 - Use stations or movement for participation
 - Give a Scout a “break token” to use

Tips for Working with ADHD Scouts

- When You Must Redirect a Scout
 - Speak in a calm voice
 - Say, “Tell me what happened”
 - Never publicly humiliate a Scout
 - Keep your cool
- When a Scout is Starting to Become More Impulsive or Aggressive
 - Use a yellow card/red card system for all Scouts playing
 - “Cooling off” zone
 - Provide an alternate activity

Tips for Working with ADHD Scouts

- Have Expectations for ALL Scouts
 - Expect the Scout with ADHD to follow the same rules as other Scouts
 - ADHD is NOT an excuse for uncontrolled behavior
- Offer Opportunities for Purposeful Movement
 - Leading cheers
 - Performing skits
 - Assisting with demonstrations

Scouting with Special Needs and Disabilities

Special Needs Scouting - Autism Spectrum



What is Autism?

- A neurological condition
- Incidence
- Characteristics

Strengths

- Excellent memory
- Attention to detail
- Very logical
- Likes to follow rules

Challenge with Communication - Verbal

- Hyper-focused on preferred topic
- Waiting turn to speak
- Listening to other's ideas
- Initiating conversation
- Understanding metaphors and idioms

Communication - Non-Verbal

- Showing interest in others
- Interpreting facial expressions and body language
- Differences in tone of voice
- Understanding other's perspective - thoughts and feelings in problems

Difficulty with Social Behaviors

- Have a hard time interacting with peers
- Following unwritten social rules
- Speak to peers with an adult vocabulary
- Rigidity of rules

Sensory Challenges

- SIGHT - clutter, brightness, or color of light
- SOUND - react strongly to ordinary sounds
- TOUCH - fabrics, being touched
- SMELL - repelled by some ordinary smells
- TASTE - won't eat some foods due to taste or texture

Tips for Leaders

- Provide consistent, predictable structure
- Give warnings before activity transitions
- Respect body space
- Create and implement a written Scouting program plan
- Provide a visual schedule
- Monitor closely for dangerous situations since children with Autism may not have appropriate fear of such
- Focus on games that develop social skills (good for all Scouts)

Traditional or Nontraditional Unit?

- Most Scouts on the spectrum can function in traditional units
- Those with more profound disabilities may need a nontraditional unit with:
 - Adapted program activities
 - Increased adult/youth ratio
 - Specific individual accommodations