Lord Robert Baden-Powell

“We want especially to help the weaker not to feel their weakness, and to gain hope and strength.”

Footsteps of the Founder
Essentials in Serving Scouts with Disabilities

Aloha Council GAPS Workshop
Rick Shema
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Expiration Date
This presentation is not to be used after Dec. 31, 2016.
Obtain an updated version at www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx
Course Objective

“1 in 10 children in the USA have a disability or condition that limits their functional skills.” –Centers for Disease Control 2010

Help leaders create a positive and inclusive program for all youth in their unit, including those that have different abilities or challenges.
A Scout is...

Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind ...

Supporting Scouts with disabilities is embedded in our **Scout Oath & Law.**
All Scouts Need Trained Leaders…

• With a positive overall outlook
• Who cares about the success of youth
• Who is focused on finding solutions to challenges
• Who sees the person, not just a diagnosis
• Who models and encourages appropriate behavior from all
What is a disability?

A disability is a real and long-term condition that impairs functioning in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical
- Learning
- Cognitive
- Emotional
- Social

“Hidden Disabilities”
What are your unit’s needs?

- Autism Spectrum
- Developmental Disability
- Intellectual/Cognitive Impairment
- Sensory Impairment
- Neurological Impairment

- Emotional Impairment
- Communication Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
Eligibility

1. Autism spectrum disorders
2. Blind or sight-impaired
3. Deaf or hard of hearing
4. Cognitive disability
5. Developmental delay
6. Down syndrome
7. Emotional or behavioral disorder
8. Physically disabled
9. Traumatic brain injury
10. Multiple coexisting disabilities
“We are more alike than we are different” - Maya Angelou

NEEDS … Youth with disabilities have the same needs to be successful, and to be accepted, both socially and emotionally as others do. We must work with all youth to put success within Reach.
Issues you may encounter

• Should the child be placed in a regular unit or in a special unit.
• Some Leaders & Parents do not want to help you.
• Parents that are over protective.
• Units that do not support scouts with disabilities.
• Fear of how other adults/scouts will treat the child.
• Events in which the child cannot participate.
• Administering medications.
Taking prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual’s parent or guardian. A leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a youth takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but the BSA does not mandate or necessarily encourage the leader to do so. Standards and policies regarding administration of medication may be in place at BSA camps. If state laws are more limiting than camp policies, they must be followed. The AHMR [Annual Health and Medical Record] also allows for a parent or guardian to authorize the administration of nonprescription medication to a youth by a camp health officer or unit leader, including any noted exceptions.
Advancement

• Cub Scout advancement
• Boy Scout and Venturer advancement
• Alternate rank requirements
• Alternate merit badges
• Participation beyond the age of eligibility
  – Application is approved by Council
• Time extensions to earn the Eagle Scout rank
Planning Events

• Camping trips, Resident Camps, Hikes
• Buddy System vs Peer Buddy
• Parents: Who has your “back”? 
• Leaders: Protect yourself
• Complaints: File Incident Report to Scout Executive
When Conflicts Occur

• Don’t make snap decisions.
• Cooling off time may be necessary but not a “punishment.”
• Listen to all sides from the Scout’s perspective.
• Help each Scout see the other’s viewpoint.
• Watch out for bullying.
Corrective Action

• A disability is not an automatic excuse for poor behavior
• Corrective action should build…
  • Self-awareness
  • Coping and adaptation skills
  • Maturity
  • Wisdom
Adaptive Approaches

EXAMPLES:
• Change resources used but not the objectives.
• Ensure accessibility for all.
• Use a “buddy or Peer Buddy”
• Use group or individual instruction, whichever works best.
• Adjust the environment.
Summary

• LOYAL – Have faith in what youth can become.
• HELPFUL – Look for positive solutions.
• FRIENDLY – A Scout is a person not a diagnosis.
• COURTEOUS – Show and expect respect.
• KIND – Model caring behavior.
Resources

- Leaders in your unit, district, and council who work with similar disabilities
- Council and district disabilities awareness committees
- disabilities.awareness@scouting.org
- Guide to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and DisAbilities, No. 510-071
- Scouting for Youth With Disabilities manual, No. 34059
- The Guide to Advancement, No. 33088
REACH out to all Scouts to be sure they are part of the group.

• R – RESPECT
• E – ENCOURAGE
• A – ACCEPT
• C – CARE
• H – HONOR

You are the model. It begins with your example.