Parents:
Biggest Complaint
But, Is it the Biggest Problem???
Leaders & Parents

Leaders may encounter two types of Parents of Scouts with disabilities

~ those who want you to know everything about their child’s disability & expect you to make exceptions to requirements and timelines for their child to advance

~ those who will not share anything about their child’s disability because they want their child to be “just like everyone else”

Do either of these styles help the Youth achieve their full potential?
There needs to be a balance.
Policy

Every boy, who wishes to participate in Boy Scouts of America programs, should be given the same opportunities as their non-disabled peers, to participate fully, and to be respected and treated like any other scout in their unit.
Joining Scouting

• **Partnership** between Parents and Leaders
• **Registration & Medical Forms**
  – Special Needs Yes/No?
  – Any medications should be listed on the medical form
  – All medical information must be kept confidential
• **Troop Resource Survey**
• **Parent-Leader Joining Conference**
  – provides the opportunity for leaders to ask key questions about the Scout
  – Have joining meeting for every Scout
  – Leaders must earn respect **before** some Parents discuss their scout
Joining Conference

– Why?
  • Partnership with Parents
  • Build trust and rapport
  • Helps SM determine which patrol is good fit
  • Helps Parents decide if troop is good fit

– Who?
  • Both parents are desirable, SM & ASM, or CM, DL, Scout?
  • Not a group meeting

– Where?
  • At scout meeting, but private conversation
  • At home or other setting

– Confidentiality must be maintained
  • Ask permission to share information with other leaders, if it will help the Scout
Joining Conference

– What you need to learn?
  • Scout’s strengths & struggles
  • Are any accommodations or adaptations made at home
  • Does any thing “trigger” emotional or behavioral struggles
  • Is there anything to watch out for
  • How he react when situations are about to be overwhelming
  • Any concerns about putting child in Scouting

– Never ask if there is a diagnosis of mental health
  • You don’t really need to know, if you know what conditions to watch out for
Partner with Parents

– Meet regularly with parents.
– Praise successes and encourage.
– Encourage parents to become leaders.
– Suggest parents may need to attend meetings or outings to assist with their son. Or provide Care Giver.
Partner with the Scout

- Communicate respectfully with the Scout
- Assume the Scout can understand and handle the disability
- Encourage the Scout to help create solutions
- Encourage self-advocacy
- No gossiping or complaining
Protect your Scouts

• Protect their privacy. Report when violated.
• Provide “Top Cover” with appropriate people
  – Tell leadership before an outing begins
  – If an issue arises, you are better off getting the situation resolved
• For incidents involving Youth Protection, report to Scout Executive.
• Minor incidents report to District Executive
Resources

- Aloha Council: https://alohacouncilbsa.doubleknot.com/resourcesenews/disabilities-awareness-resources/59277
- Scouts with Disabilities and Special Needs Fact Sheet No. 02-508
- Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual No. 34059
- Guide to Advancement No. 33088
- Cub Scout Leader Book (Chapter 17) No. 33221
- Family Talent Survey Sheet
- Troop Resource Survey
- Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges No. 512-730
- Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility No. 512-935
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP) No. 512-936
- Working with Scouts with DisAbilities Website http://www.wwswd.org
- Autism and Boy Scouts Website http://autismempowerment.org
- US Scouting Service Project http://usscouts.org
- Autism Elopement Alert Form http://www.awaare.org
Bottom Line

Leaders, Scouts and parents are collaborative partners in the Scouting adventure for all scouts.
Thank You & Questions
Advancement Plan

At school, youth with disabilities will have either a 504 Accommodation Plan or an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

Boy Scouts of America has established provisions for youth with disabilities.

~ At the Cub Scout level, the Motto “Do Your Best” prevails.
~ There are set procedures for applying for alternate requirements for Boy Scout rank advancement and for alternate Merit Badges for the Eagle Scout Rank, including an Individual Scout Achievement Plan (ISAP) and the Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges.
~ At all levels, registration beyond the normal registration age is approved by the local council on an individual basis as recorded and certified on the youth’s Personal Health and Medical Record form.

*The Buddy System, Meeting Plans, Patrol Method and EDGE (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable) Method provide for peer interaction, support, and teaching, strategies that are advantageous for all Scouts, but particularly for Scouts with disabilities - use them!!!*