



ABILITIES AWARENESS COORDINATOR



What is an Abilities Awareness Coordinator ?

- Leader
- Parent
- Adult Mentor

Responsibilities ????

- Be a liaison between parents & leadership
- Be a liaison between the unit and the Council/District Special Needs Committee
- Provide support and resources
- Attend Special Needs training opportunities
- Facilitate opportunities
- Promote Awareness, Inclusion, and Opportunities for Youth with Special Needs



Act as a liaison between parents & leadership

Lack of communication is the biggest reason we lose scouts w/Special Needs in the 1st year.

You are an Advocate for the scout and the unit.



Act as a liaison between the Unit, the Council & District Special Needs Committees

- Ensure the annual Special Needs survey is completed & turned in at re-charter time.
- Bring questions to the district & council special needs committees
- Seek guidance on advancement and ISAP's
- **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!! They are there to help you!!!!**



Encourage Parent Involvement

- Decreases anxiety in the scout.
- Nobody knows the scout like their parent.
 - Triggers
 - Calming Techniques
- It's a fun journey that should be shared

Provide support for the Scouts with Special Needs & their family during the webelos to scout transition

- Change = Anxiety, help the scout & family to feel at ease about this.
- Help contact Troops where maybe a one on one with the Scoutmaster is a 1st step before visiting a meeting.

Help make unit leaders & parents aware of special needs resources

- Guide to working with scouts w/Special Needs
- Registering Beyond Age of Eligibility
- Alternative Merit Badges for Eagle
- ISAP (Individual Scout Advancement Plan)
- BSA Special Needs Website
- WWSWD (Working with scouts with disAbilities)
- Three Fires Council Website (Special Needs under Program tab)
- Special Needs & Scouting Trainings
- **Three Fires Council Special Needs Committee**

Attend Special Needs training opportunities, and bring back the information to the unit

- Unit Level Trainings
- University of Scouting
- Training Academy
- Lord Baden Powell University
- Merit Badge University (Adults) Training Expo
- Philmont & Sea Base (Special Needs Week)
- Regional Special Needs Conference



Facilitate opportunities for learning about special needs for leaders, parents, and scouts

- **Trainings:**

- Essentials in Serving Scouts with disabilities
- Camping Considerations for Scouts with Disabilities
- Inclusion – The Key to Disability Awareness
- Program & Planning Strategies with Working with Scouts with Disabilities
- Working with Scouts with Disabilities – Advancement
- Abilities Awareness Coordinator

Special Needs Awareness Nights:

Great Race to Autism Awareness



Promote Awareness, Inclusion, and Opportunities for Youth with Special Needs

- Disability Awareness Merit Badge
- Special Needs Awareness Night (in your unit)
- Abilities Awareness Patch Program
- Community Service Hours with a Special Needs Group

