

Autism and Scouting



Autism Empowerment Accept, Enrich, Inspire, Empower

Scout Leader tips for helping Scouts on the Spectrum

1. Get to know the Scout and his or her family!
2. **When you meet one scout with Autism, you've met ONE scout with Autism.**
3. Find out what, if anything may cause a meltdown/shutdown.
4. Find out what works best to help the scout recover from a meltdown or shutdown.
5. Find out any sensory issues the scout might have.
6. Find out how the scout learns best.
7. Find out any special interests that the scout has.
8. Incorporate these special interests to help the scout learn.
9. Have a place for the scout to go for sensory breaks.
10. Allow for transition time and processing time.
11. Use positive encouragement to help in taking part in activities.
12. Explain the reason why something is being done.
13. Be careful of using sarcasm either directly or around the scout.
14. Don't talk down to the scout and make sure to monitor your tone.
15. Live by example, Live the Scout Law and Oath – Integrity matters.
16. Try to help the scout achieve success while having fun along the way.
17. Always follow the guide to safe scouting.
18. Always remember to respect the family's and scout's privacy.
19. **Accept** the scouts for who they are, where they are.
20. **Enrich** the scout's life by teaching lifelong skills.
21. **Inspire** the scout to be exceptional. Chances are that he/she will inspire you too.
22. **Empower** the scout by giving the tools to be self-sufficient and successful.

For more information visit: <http://www.autismempowerment.org>

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