

A note for leaders:

Organizing and Planning for Scouts with Special Abilities:

Careful preparation can often mean the difference between success or failure for Scouts with learning disabilities, especially when faced with complex or multistep tasks. The following suggestions can help offset some of these difficulties and help to promote success.

1. Give adequate notice before starting or stopping activities.
2. Involve Scouts in the design and implementation of plans of action.
3. Help Scouts break down larger tasks into smaller, more easily accomplished steps when working toward a goal.
4. Check progress at regular intervals and offer redirection as necessary.

Referenced from: *Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual*. Retrieved on August 4, 2013 from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34059.pdf>.



Tool Kit

Scouts with Special Abilities:

Learning what your scouts' abilities and limitations are is the key to enabling a boy with challenges to succeed. A good relationship with the scouts support be it parents or a teacher, can help with planning. If your scout has a medical disability, having adequate supplies on hand to assist with parenteral intervention is part of "being prepared". This might mean consulting with a parent to enhance your first aid kit with items the child might need, such as glucose tabs for a diabetic, an emergency epi-pen for those with severe allergies, or extra bandages and self-protective equipment for a boy with a clotting disorder. Always consult with a parent for these items, and never administer a medication without consent first.

To a child with an attention disorder, or communication impairment, some scout meetings might seem endless and boring. While the leaders might be need time to explain the purpose of the activity and safety concerns, boys who do not have a long enough attention span might struggle with long explanations. A tool box filled with fidget items such as therapy putty, clicking pens, a strip of Velcro, a putty tin filled with Lego pieces might allow the inattentive boy to sit still long enough to listen. Hyperactive boys might also benefit from some movement during this time such as bouncing on a therapy ball or a sit and move seat. Boys with language impairments might benefit from prewritten note cards, or picture cards. All these items can make a longer meeting seem to run smoother. Be sure to consult with parents and engage them in providing these items to enable their son to participate in the rewards of scouting.

For more support tips, or questions please contact: Indian Prairie Special Needs Coordinator Jocelyn Nolan (Boy Scouts) or Denise Krusenoski (Cub Scouts) <http://www.threefirescouncil.org>.