

MERIT BADGE SERIES



DISABILITIES AWARENESS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Define and discuss with your counselor the following disabilities awareness terms: disability, accessibility, adaptation, accommodation, invisible disability, person-first language, and inclusion.
 - b. Explain why proper disability etiquette is important, and how it may differ depending on the specific disability. Give three examples.
2. Visit an agency that works with people with physical, mental, emotional, or educational disabilities. Collect and read information about the agency's activities. Learn about opportunities its members have for training, employment, and education. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
3. Do TWO of the following:
 - a. Talk with a Scout who has a disability and learn about the Scout's experiences taking part in Scouting activities and earning different merit badges. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
 - b. Talk with an individual who has a disability and learn about this person's experiences and the activities in which this person likes to participate. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
 - c. Learn how people with disabilities take part in a particular adaptive sport or recreational activity. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
 - d. Learn about independent living aids such as service animals, canes, and augmentative communication devices such as captioned telephones and videophones. Discuss with your counselor how people use such aids.

- e. Plan or participate in an activity that helps others understand what a person with a visible or invisible disability experiences. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
4. Do EITHER option A or option B:
- Option A.** Visit TWO of the following locations and take notes about the accessibility to people with disabilities. In your notes, give examples of five things that could be done to improve upon the site and five things about the site that make it friendly to people with disabilities. Discuss your observations with your counselor.
- Your school
 - Your place of worship
 - A Scouting event or campsite
 - A public exhibit or attraction (such as a theater, museum, or park)
- Option B.** Visit TWO of the following locations and take notes while observing features and methods that are used to accommodate people with invisible disabilities. While there, ask staff members to explain any accommodation features that may not be obvious. Note anything you think could be done to better accommodate people who have invisible disabilities. Discuss your observations with your counselor.
- Your school
 - Your place of worship
 - A Scouting event or campsite
 - A public exhibit or attraction (such as a theater, museum, or park)
5. Explain what advocacy is. Do ONE of the following advocacy activities:
- a. Present a counselor-approved disabilities awareness program to a Cub Scout pack or other group. During your presentation, explain and use person-first language.
 - b. Find out about disabilities awareness education programs in your school or school system, or contact a disability advocacy agency. Volunteer with a program or agency for eight hours.

- c. Using resources such as disability advocacy agencies, government agencies, the internet (with your parent's permission), and news magazines, learn about myths and misconceptions that influence the general public's understanding of people with disabilities. List 10 myths and misconceptions about people with disabilities and learn the facts about each myth. Share your list with your counselor, then use it to make a presentation to a Cub Scout pack or other group.
6. Make a commitment to your merit badge counselor describing what you will do to show a positive attitude about people with disabilities and to encourage positive attitudes among others. Discuss how your awareness has changed as a result of what you have learned.
7. Name five professions that provide services to people with disabilities. Pick one that interests you and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss what you learn with your counselor, and tell why this profession interests you.



Disabilities Awareness Resources

Scouting Literature

Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Athletics, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Digital Technology, Engineering, First Aid, Inventing, Medicine, Public Speaking, Robotics, Signs, Signals, and Codes, and *Sports* merit badge pamphlets; *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416; and *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088 (section 10.0.0.0)

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Scout Life magazine in Braille. National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress, Washington DC.

Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8567

Scouts BSA handbook in large print. Pilots and Program Development, Boy Scouts of America.

Send requests via email to advancement.team@scouting.org.

The following materials are available at www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/:

- Scouting With Special Needs and Disabilities, an information sheet
- Guide to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and Disabilities, No. 510-071
- *Scouting for Youth With Disabilities Manual*, No. 34059
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan, No. 512-936
- *Abilities Digest* newsletter

For more information, email Disabilities.Awareness@scouting.org.

Resources for bullying prevention are available at www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/bullying/.

Books

Fiction

Many of these novels are classics available in several editions and formats including audio and large print.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. HarperCollins, 2010. A lonely boy in a wheelchair misbehaves until his orphaned cousin moves in. A locked garden brings them closer as they transform the garden and themselves.

Byars, Betsy. *The Summer of the Swans*. Puffin Books, 2004. A teenager gains new insight into herself and her family when her brother with cognitive disabilities goes missing.

De Angeli, Marguerite. *The Door in the Wall*. Yearling Books, 1998. In 14th-century England, a boy with physical disabilities proves his courage.

Dorris, Michael. *See Behind Trees*. Disney-Hyperion, 1999. An American Indian boy with a special gift to “see” beyond his limited eyesight journeys with an old warrior to a land of mystery and beauty.

Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind*. Atheneum Books, 2012. When a girl with cerebral palsy who cannot walk or talk is given a device that lets her “speak,” she surprises everyone around her.

Flegg, Aubrey. *The Cinnamon Tree*. O’Brien Press, 2000. When a land mine explodes beneath her, Yola Abonda must learn to walk again after the amputation of her leg.

Hoopmann, Kathy. *Blue Bottle Mystery: An Asperger Adventure*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006. A boy with Asperger’s syndrome and his friend travel an exciting fantasy adventure when they discover an old bottle.

Janover, Caroline. *How Many Days Until Tomorrow?* Woodbine House, 2000. A boy with dyslexia spends an island summer with his grandparents, developing strengths and discovering new talents.

Konigsburg, E.L. *The View from Saturday*. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1998. Four unique students attract the attention of their paraplegic teacher, who chooses them to represent their class in the Academic Bowl.

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Scholastic Press, 2008. A sister helps her brother with autism understand how to live in a world that does not always have compassion.

Martin, Ann M. *A Corner of the Universe*. Scholastic, 2004. After a school for people with developmental disabilities closes, a family must deal with a child-like young man whose existence they have denied for years.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Petey*. Hyperion Books, 2010. A man with cerebral palsy is misdiagnosed and institutionalized. Sixty years later, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2001. Two boys unite to become a powerful team, using their unique, differently abled talents as their strengths.

Polacco, Patricia. *The Junkyard Wonder*. Philomel Books, 2010. A teacher inspires her class of students with special needs to greater heights, and discovers hidden genius.

Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay*. Yearling Books, 2003. During World War II, an adolescent boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old man are stranded on a tiny island where the boy gains a new kind of vision.

Winkler, Henry. *Niagara Falls, or Does It?* Turtleback Books, 2003. In a series inspired by the author's own experiences with undiagnosed dyslexia, a fourth-grader decides to "show" how he spent his summer instead of writing the usual essay.

Nonfiction

Abramovitz, Melissa. *Multiple Sclerosis*. Lucent Books, 2010. Offers insights into the neurological disease known as MS, what causes it, and how people live with it.

Autism Speaks. *Leading the Way: Autism-Friendly Youth Organization Guide*, 2013. A guide to help community organizations make their programs more inclusive of children with autism.

Corman, Richard. *I Am Proud: The Athletes of Special Olympics*. Barnes & Noble Books, 2003. Portrays athletes' dignity, grace, and joy in competition.

Dougherty, Terri. *Epilepsy*. Lucent Books, 2009. Explains types of seizures and their triggers, and provides a historical perspective on treatments.

Flodin, Mickey. *Signing for Kids: The Fun Way for Anyone to Learn American Sign Language*. Perigee Books, 2007. An

introduction to the expressive language used by many deaf people to speak with their hands.

Floyd, Ingrid. *Opening the Gate: Stories and Activities About Athletes With Disabilities*. CreateSpace, 2013. An introduction to the world of wheelchairs and prosthetics, with outstanding athletes recounting the experiences that helped them participate effectively in sports and led them to the top of their athletic careers.

Freedman, Russell. *Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille*. Clarion Books, 1999. A biography of the 19th-century Frenchman who developed a system of raised dots on paper that enabled others who are blind to read and write.

Kent, Deborah, and Kathryn A. Quinlan. *Extraordinary People With Disabilities*. Children's Press, 1997. A collection of biographies of 48 famous people who made great accomplishments despite their disability.

Kling, Andrew A. *Cerebral Palsy*. Lucent Books, 2012. Discusses the incurable disorder that strikes about two in 1,000 infants yearly in the United States.

Krueger, Tira. *Taking Tourette Syndrome to School*. JayJo Books, 2002. Portrays Tourette syndrome from the point of view of a child who has the condition.

Lauren, Jill. *That's Like Me! Stories About Amazing People With Learning Differences*. Star Bright Books, 2009. Stories of 16 adults and young people who overcome by focusing on their strengths instead of their learning disabilities.

Meyer, Donald, ed. *Views From Our Shoes: Growing Up With a Brother or Sister With Special Needs*. Woodbine House, 1997. Children ages 4 to 18 share their experiences of having a sibling with a disability.

Naff, Clayton Farris, ed. *Muscular Dystrophy*. Greenhaven Press, 2011. Explains the causes and treatments of muscular dystrophy.

Oleksy, Walter G. *Christopher Reeve*. Greenhaven Press, 1999. Discusses the life-altering accident of the actor known for his role as Superman and for his efforts on behalf of people with spinal cord injuries.

Paquette, Penny Hutchins, and Cheryl Gerson Tuttle. *Learning Disabilities: The Ultimate Teen Guide*. Scarecrow Press, 2006. Gives teenagers dealing with learning disabilities tools for coping with the obstacles they face.

Rogers, Dale Evans. *Angel Unaware*. Revell, 2007. The story of a child with Down syndrome born to celebrities Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

Stern, Judith, and Uzi Ben-Ami. *Many Ways to Learn: A Kid's Guide to LD*. Magination Press, 2010. Describes different learning disabilities and the many things children with LD can do to reach their goals.

Verdick, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth Reeve. *The Survival Guide for Kids With Autism Spectrum Disorder (and Their Parents)*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2012. Helps young people with autism spectrum disorders understand their condition.

Vujcic, Nick. *Life Without Limits*. Crown Publishing, 2010. Portrays a man born without arms or legs who lives a rich, fulfilling, independent life as an internationally successful motivational speaker.

Warner, Penny. *Learn to Sign the Fun Way!* Three Rivers Press, 2001. Provides games and other activities that help the reader learn to sign.

Weihenmayer, Erik. *Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther Than the Eye Can See*. Plume Books, 2002. An adventure-packed memoir in which the author recalls becoming blind, acquiring a passion for mountain climbing, and succeeding in climbing Mount Everest.

Williams, Donna. *Nobody Nowhere: The Remarkable Autobiography of an Autistic Girl*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2004. Takes readers into the mind of a person who has autism, giving an insider's view of a little-understood condition.

Woodyard, Shawn, and others. *Resources for People With Disabilities: A National Directory, 2nd ed.* Ferguson Publishing, 2001. Provides information about advocacy, assistive technology, organizations and associations, rehabilitations, state programs, and more.

Organizations and Websites

In addition to those listed here, many local and regional organizations support people with disabilities. Internet searches (with your parent's permission) will help you find them.

AbleData

103 W. Broad St., Suite 400
Falls Church, VA 22046
Toll-free telephone: 800-227-0216
Website: <https://abledata.acl.gov/>

Adaptive Sports USA

P.O. Box 621023
Littleton, CO 80162
Telephone: 720-412-7979
Website:
www.adaptivesportsusa.org

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 200
Rosemont, IL 60018
Toll-free telephone: 877-227-6799
Website: www.aapmr.org

American Association of People With Disabilities

2013 H St. NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-840-8844
Website: www.aapd.com

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

8403 Colesville Road, Suite 900
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 202-387-1968
Website: <http://aaidd.org>

American Council of the Blind

1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22311
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8666
Website: <http://acb.org>

American Foundation for the Blind

2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1102
New York, NY 10121
Telephone: 212-502-7600
Website: <http://afb.org>

American Printing House for the Blind Inc.

1839 Frankfort Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
Toll-free telephone: 800-223-1839
Website: www.aph.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

2200 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850-3289
Toll-free telephone: 800-638-8255
Website: www.asha.org

The Arc

1825 K St. NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-433-5255
Website: <https://thearc.org>

Attention Deficit Disorder Association

Toll-free telephone: 800-939-1019
Website: www.add.org

Autism Empowerment

P.O. Box 871676
Vancouver, WA 98687
Telephone: 360-852-8369
Website:
www.autismempowerment.org

Autism Society

6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 305
Rockville, MD 20852
Toll-free telephone: 646-385-8500
Website: www.autism-society.org

Autism Speaks

1 E. 33rd St., Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10016
Telephone: 212-252-8584
Website: www.autismspeaks.org

BlazeSports America

1670 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 331
Norcross, GA 30093
Telephone: 404-270-2000
Website: <http://blazesports.org>

Bookshare

Website: www.bookshare.org

Brain Injury Association of America

1608 Spring Hill Road, Suite 110
Vienna, VA 22182
Telephone: 703-761-0750
Website: www.biausa.org

Children and Adults With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder National Resource Center on ADHD

4221 Forbes Blvd., Suite 270
Lanham, MD 20706
Telephone: 301-306-7070
Website: www.chadd.org

Disability Is Natural

P.O. Box 39076
San Antonio, TX 78218
Telephone: 210-320-0678
Website: www.disabilityisnatural.com

Disabled American Veterans

3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Toll-free telephone: 877-426-2838
Website: www.dav.org

Disabled Sports USA

451 Hungerford Drive, Suite 608
Rockville, MD 20850
Telephone: 301-217-0960
Website: www.disabledsportsusa.org

Easter Seals

141 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1400A
Chicago, IL 60604
Toll-free telephone: 800-221-6827
Website: www.easterseals.com

Goodwill Industries International Inc.

15810 Indianola Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
Toll-free telephone: 800-466-3945
Website: www.goodwill.org

Guide Dogs for the Blind

P.O. Box 151200
San Rafael, CA 94915-1200
Toll-free telephone: 800-295-4050
Website: www.guidedogs.com

Helping Hands

541 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02134
Telephone: 617-787-4419
Website: <https://monkeyhelpers.org/>

International Dyslexia Association

40 York Road, Fourth Floor
Baltimore, MD 21204
Telephone: 410-296-0232
Website: <https://dyslexiaida.org>

Learning Disabilities Association of America

461 Cochran Road, Suite 245
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Telephone: 412-341-1515
Website: <https://ldaamerica.org>

Mental Health America

500 Montgomery St., Suite 820
Alexandria, VA 22314
Toll-free telephone: 800-969-6642
Website: www.mhanational.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association USA

161 N. Clark St., Suite 3550
Chicago, IL 60601
Toll-free telephone: 800-572-1717
Website: www.mda.org

National Association of the Deaf

8630 Fenton St., Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3819
Telephone: 301-587-1788
Website: www.nad.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities

31 Thomas Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Toll-free telephone: 888-575-7373
Website: www.nclld.org

National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability

4000 Ridgeway Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209
Toll-free telephone: 800-900-8086
Website: www.nchpad.org

National Down Syndrome Congress

30 Mansell Court, Suite 108
Roswell, GA 30076
Telephone: 800-232-6372
Website: <http://ndscenter.org>

National Down Syndrome Society

8 E. 41st St., Eighth Floor
New York, NY 10017
Toll-free telephone: 800-221-4602
Website: www.ndss.org

National Federation of the Blind

200 E. Wells St. at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230
Telephone: 410-659-9314
Website: <http://nfb.org>

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

1291 Taylor St. NW
Washington, DC 20542
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8567
Website: www.loc.gov/nls

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Toll-free telephone: 800-344-4867
Website:
www.nationalmssociety.org

National Organization on Disability

77 Water St., Suite 204
New York, NY 10005
Telephone: 646-505-1191
Website: www.nod.org

National Rehabilitation Information Center

8400 Corporate Drive, Suite 500
Landover, MD 20785
Toll-free telephone: 800-346-2742
Website: www.naric.com

Special Olympics International

1133 19th St. NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604
Toll-free telephone: 800-700-8585
Website: <http://specialolympics.org>

TASH

(Equity, Opportunity, and Inclusion for People with Disabilities)
1101 15th St. NW, Suite 206
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: 202-817-3264
Website: <https://tash.org>

Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554
Toll-free telephone: 888-225-5322
Website:
www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs

United Cerebral Palsy

1825 K St. NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-872-5827
Website: <http://ucp.org>

United States Association of Blind Athletes

1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Telephone: 719-866-3224
Website: <http://usaba.org>

USA Deaf Sports Federation

P.O. Box 2011
Santa Fe, NM 87502
Website: www.usdeafsports.org

U.S. Paralympics

1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5760
Telephone: 719-866-2030
Website: www.teamusa.org/
US-Paralympics

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