

A PRESENTATION FROM THE NATIONAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS TASK FORCE

ABILITIES AWARENESS



NDA 110

Inclusion – The Key to Disabilities Awareness

This Presentation was updated in May 2021

Presentation Objective

“1 in 6 children in the USA have a disability or condition that limits their functional skills.” –Centers for Disease Control 2019

To encourage positive, inclusive experiences for all youth in Scouting, especially those with different abilities or challenges.

Why is Inclusion Important?

It's consistent with the **Scout Oath and Law**

“...to help other people at all times”

“A Scout is kind...”

Mainstreaming vs. Inclusion

Mainstreaming:

- Benefits mostly Scouts who have special needs
- Focus on Scouts with disabilities overcoming obstacles
- Accommodations are emphasized

Inclusion:

- Benefits all Scouts in the unit
- Ensures ALL members succeed in Scouting
- Welcomes adaptive approaches to improve units

Inclusion is...

An approach, not a program.

An attitude, not an activity.

Inclusion is a Process that...

- Begins with “I”
- Promotes working together
- Makes Scouting accessible to ALL members

Benefits of Inclusion

Scouts who have disabilities:

- Develop strong bonds with fellow Scouts
- Learn from their peers
- Improves Advancement
- Increased willingness to take on difficult tasks
- Self esteem and confidence increases

Benefits of Inclusion

- Build strong bonds with fellow Scouts who have disabilities
- Gain appreciation and acceptance for people with special needs
- Work with Scouts who have varying skills and abilities
- Learn mentoring skills at an early age

“What can I do to make my unit, district, or council more Inclusive?”

- Start with the **INDIVIDUAL**
- Determine the youth’s needs and strengths
- Balance his needs
- Utilize his strengths
- Create a quality experience for **ALL** Scouts

Commitment at Every Level of Scouting

Commitment from Council Leadership is
Essential

- Chief Executive Officer
- Council Strategic plan
- Capital campaigns for facilities/program
- Staff and Volunteers

Path towards Inclusion

- Value all members
- Involve the group in making decisions
- Praise good work
- Plan group activities based on individual skills and contribution
- Utilize the Buddy System and a Peer Buddy

Summary

- **LOYAL** – Have faith in what youth can become.
- **HELPFUL** – Look for positive solutions.
- **FRIENDLY** – A Scout is a person not a diagnosis.
- **COURTEOUS** – Show and expect respect.
- **KIND** – Model caring behavior.

Resources

- Leaders in your Unit, District, and Council who work with similar disabilities
- Council and District Disabilities Awareness Committees
- disabilities.awareness@scouting.org
- *Guide to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and DisAbilities, No. 510-071*
- *Scouting for Youth With Disabilities* manual, No. 34059
- *The Guide to Advancement, No. 33088*