

THE JOINING CONFERENCE



What is a joining conference?



- A meeting between parents of a new Scout and the Unit leader
- Regardless of whether or not the Scout has a disability or special need

The conference is **not** a job interview



The conference is **not** required to join the unit.
It takes place **after** the Scout has joined.

Conference Purpose



- Build the relationship
- Share information

First: Get to know the Scout

- What are the Scout's Interests?



General Questions

- What is the name that the Scout wants to be called? How do you pronounce it?
- What are the Scout's strengths and abilities?
- What are Scout's expectations? What is the Scout hoping to get from Scouting? What activities of Scouting most interest them?
- Is the Scout involved in any other youth organizations?
- How is this Scout unique?



Then: Questions about challenges

- Barriers and Concerns
- Strategies to Help with Challenges



Challenges



- Do you have any concerns about joining Scouts?
- Are there things that are harder for this Scout than for others?
- Is there anything we need to watch out for or avoid doing with this Scout?
- Are there things that help the Scout be successful at home or school? Is there anything we need to make sure we do for this Scout? **If the Scout is struggling, what works to help the Scout?**

Finally, Address Any Identified Special Needs

- Description. Triggers?
- How to address needs
- Parental support



Special Needs



- Describe the challenges the Scout may have.
- Describe any special needs that might arise at a meeting, campout, or field trip, and how to best handle them.
- What specific assistance or equipment is used by the Scout?
- What support can the parents provide?
- Are there triggers for emotional or behavioral struggles, and how best can the struggles be addressed or avoided?

BSA Commitment

For parents of a Scout with special needs, describe:

- Support system
- Resources



Obstacles



Conference Reminders

- Relaxed and Informal
- Open-ended questions
- Behavior more important than a diagnosis
- Confidentiality



Questions for You

