

Actual Questions of [Scout]

1. [Thank [Scout] for coming]

2. Why did you join scouts?

I have always wanted to be a scout. I found a community here in the troop.

3. What's been the best part of scouting for you?

Setting an example as a patrol leader

4. What's been hard?

Just getting around. Some outings I couldn't go on, and I wanted to be there for my patrol.

5. We have a lot of adult leaders from other units here tonight. What general advice would you give them concerning scouts who have physical disabilities?

Give disabled scouts the same treatment and opportunities. Don't let them feel left out. Adapt activities so that they can participate. Find out what the scout can and can't do.

[If she doesn't add, ask] What advice do you have for adult leaders who may have scouts in their unit that have a physical disability?

Listen to them. Give them their voice. Ask them what they need for an outing. Be OK with it if the scout says they're fine.

Actual Questions of [Scout]

6. What was done to make scouting more accessible to you?

Being open about planning outings. Being OK with not going on an outing if it's too difficult. Making reasonable accommodations. For example, substituting horsemanship merit badge for swimming/hiking/cycling merit badges.

7. What could have been done better?

Sitting down earlier in a scout's career to come up with a plan. Planning in advance.

8. What does a scout with physical disabilities add to a unit?

Setting an example for the other scouts. Increasing awareness of the scout leaders.

Actual Questions of [Scout Parent] (w/ Other Parent's Additions)

1. What do you like about scouting for [your Scout]?

Increased confidence. Pushing her to do things she wouldn't ordinarily do. Leadership. Achievement orientation of the program. Her experiences as a patrol leader and projects like EDGE in which she shared knowledge with younger scouts have boosted her confidence in speaking and presenting. Merit badges have given her an opportunity to develop skills or explore topics outside of traditional school curriculum.

2. What's been hard?

In certain places, [Scout] feels less enabled. At Wente, she sees scouts running around without their parents. I had to help her with the bathroom, the shower, etc. This is very unusual in our relationship. I saw more of [my Scout] there than at any other time of the year.

I try to get more parents involved so it will be more of a "normal" experience.

3. What general advice do you have for adult leaders who may have scouts in their unit that have a physical disability?

Treat them as normally as possible.

Actual Questions of [Scout Parent]

4. What advice do you have for parents?

Allow the scouts to experience independence and distance from parents.

Other parents would be surprised when I just dropped [my Scout] off, but I think it often worked better that way. Scheme how to be independent.

It's hard not to stand out, when all the other kids are running up and down the stairs, when you're there. It's just assumed to be your responsibility.

5. What was done that was helpful in making scouting more accessible to [your Scout]?

Outing awareness. We drove to Wente a month before camp with a 202 leader. And still, we did not find out for two years that there was a disabled accessible shower.

Participation of a disabled scout on an outing should not be an afterthought. For example, the troop went on a rigorous hike, and then she joined them for the last mile on a paved road.

It's disturbing if you go there and it's completely impossible.

6. What could have been done that would have improved accessibility?

The Senior Patrol Leader should be aware too. It's like being prepared to deal with a scout with a broken leg.

Actual Questions of [Scout parent]

7. What does a scout with physical disabilities add to a unit?

Increase in empathy, reduction in fear and stigma. There are actually people who won't look at [my Scout], and others who are overly solicitous.