

INCLUDING SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES IN SCOUTING

Special Presentation for Peralta District's September, 2022 Round Table

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District Champions for GGAC's Special Needs & Disabilities Commission**

In Consultation with Anthony Mei, Chair of GGAC SN&D Commission

- Not for presentation -

number

Scouts in Unit

18.62% Scouts In

We don't have many scouts with disabilities in our unit.

fact, as all of you already know, Scouts with disabilities are
evalent in every unit.

From the 2018 Erie Shores Council survey we gave you, reports identified 18.62% of their scouts as having special needs.

number	# Scouts in Unit	18.62% Scouts In
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On the chart on the wall, 18.62% of your scouts are in the last column.

your unit is statistically similar to units from the Erie
Lakes Council, it will have *at least* the displayed number
scouts with disabilities.

*How does that number compare with the number your unit has
actually identified?"*

We have only one scout that uses a walker.”



Remember, 70% of disabilities are invisible.

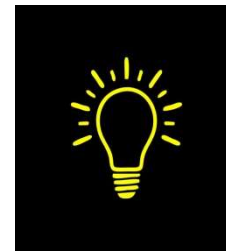


do have scouts in my unit with issues.

How can I tell if the issues are due to a disability?"



Issues are ALWAYS due to a disability.



Adopting this view keeps you open to information, curious,
and non-judgmental.



outs are not compelled to be in scouting.

There is something getting in their way, it is some kind of
voluntary limitation on their part.



An involuntary limitation that interferes significantly with
functioning is a disability of some kind

I am sympathetic to scouts with disabilities, but it is hard enough running a unit for non-disabled scouts.”



But there are scouts with disabilities in every unit.

Learning to accommodate such scouts will make a leader's job easier and more fulfilling.

**Accommodating a Scout with a disability
improves the quality of the program for all
Scouts.**

teaching youth and adult leaders techniques for dealing with ADHD will improve the effectiveness of their presentations for all scouts.

What are those techniques?"



With leaders become more effective when trained
consider underlying reasons for Scout behavior

Awareness of disabilities strengthens a core leadership skill →
being curious about why Scouts are behaving in unusual

Why is my patrol being so crabby?"



Good experiences with Scouts with disabilities teaches acceptance of difference.



When a Scout with a disability successfully completes a task, both the Scout and the leader are empowered.

Scouts with disabilities can sometimes be more difficult to work with than other scouts.

This is **GREAT** because it gives scouters an opportunity to teach youth and adult leaders how to lead when there are unexpected or invisible leadership problems.

There are always such problems.

inclusion of Scouts with disabilities demonstrates
the unit's commitment to every single member,
assuring all Scouts, including Scouts without
special needs, that EVERYONE BELONGS.

Why Scouting for Youth Who Have Disabilities?

- Scouting can have value for all eligible youth.
- Youth with disabilities often find challenges in social settings.
- Scouting teaches skills that help prepare them for life in our society.
- Scouting provides broader associations.

Information from this slide has been provided courtesy of Anthony Mei, GGAC SND Committee Chair from his national Disabilities Awareness Committee presentation: CED 713/SND 200 Advancement for Scouts With Disabilities, July 2020.

Why Parents Might Not Disclose

Parents may be fearful of *disclosing* that their Scout has a disability for many reasons:

- 1. Previous experiences of exclusion or misunderstanding that happened in other settings by teachers, camp instructors, other parents.
- 2. Their Scout may feel embarrassed or worried about being accepted.
- 3. Concern that their Scout will be stigmatized.
- 4. They think the unit will not accept them.
- 5. They believe their Scout does not need any “special treatment.”

Joining Conference: Who Should Attend?

- 1. Unit Leader
- 1. Parents or Guardian
- 1. Prospective Scout

Joining Conference: Purpose

1. To Describe the Scouting Program
2. To get a picture of the Scout's abilities strengths, weaknesses
3. Special needs
4. To explain the level of support available.

Special Needs Scouting is Included in the BSA Charter

To insure Special Needs Scouts get the scouting program, and to insure that the leaders and parents are informed and supported.

Special Needs Scouting is an integral part of our program.

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs and disabilities is full participation:

- To be respected and treated like every other member
- To participate like other youth

Documenting a Disability:

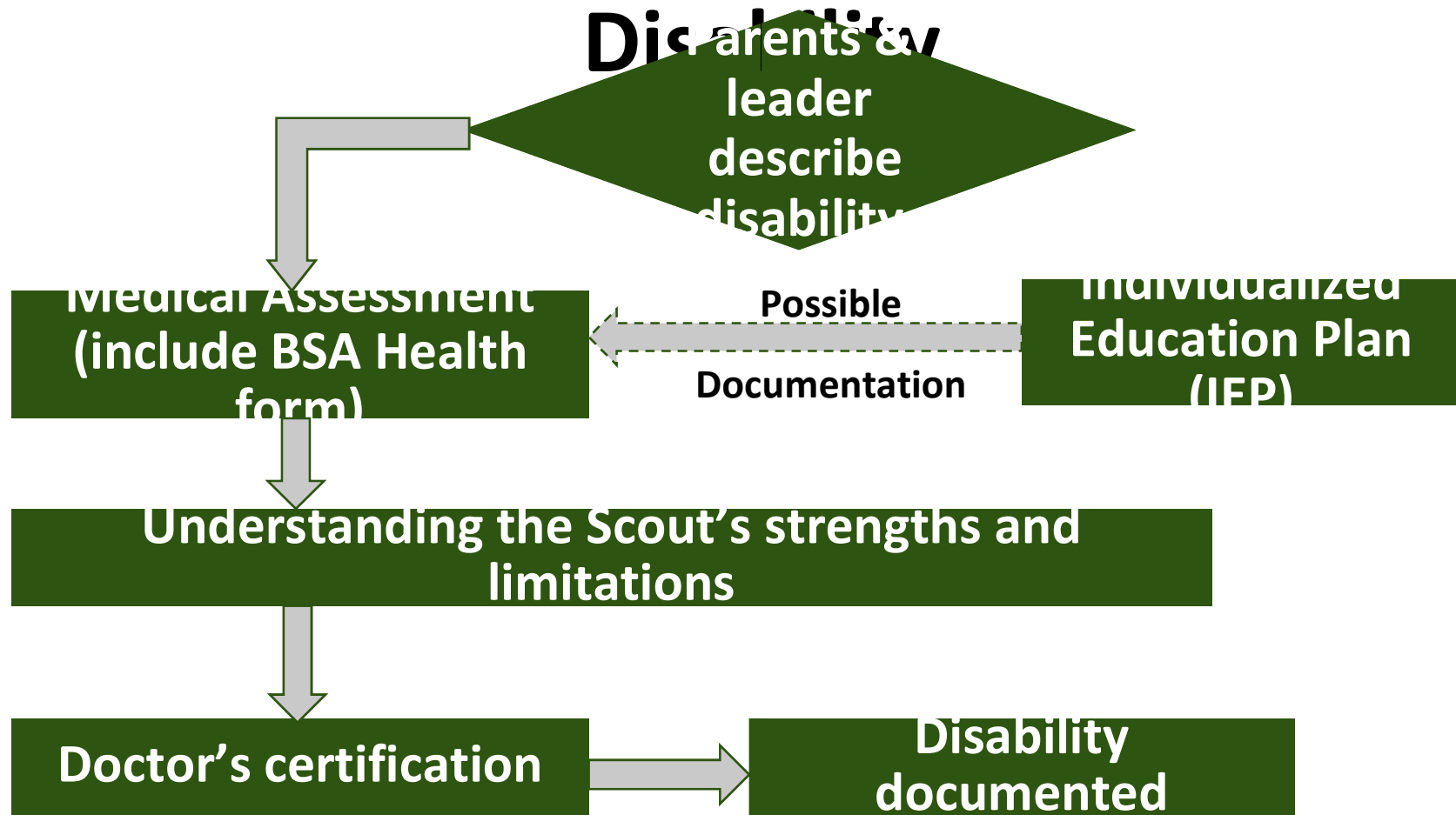
Required to qualify for alternative requirements or registration beyond the age of eligibility.

- Obtain letter from parent describing disability
- Provide youth application* or membership card
- Complete BSA Annual Health & Medical Record (AHMR) form (parts A and C), No. 680-001
- Obtain statement from health professional
- Obtain letter from unit leader
- Provide other available supporting documentation, such as an “IEP”

See *Guide to Advancement*, 10.1.0.2 – and RB

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Process Flow for Documenting a



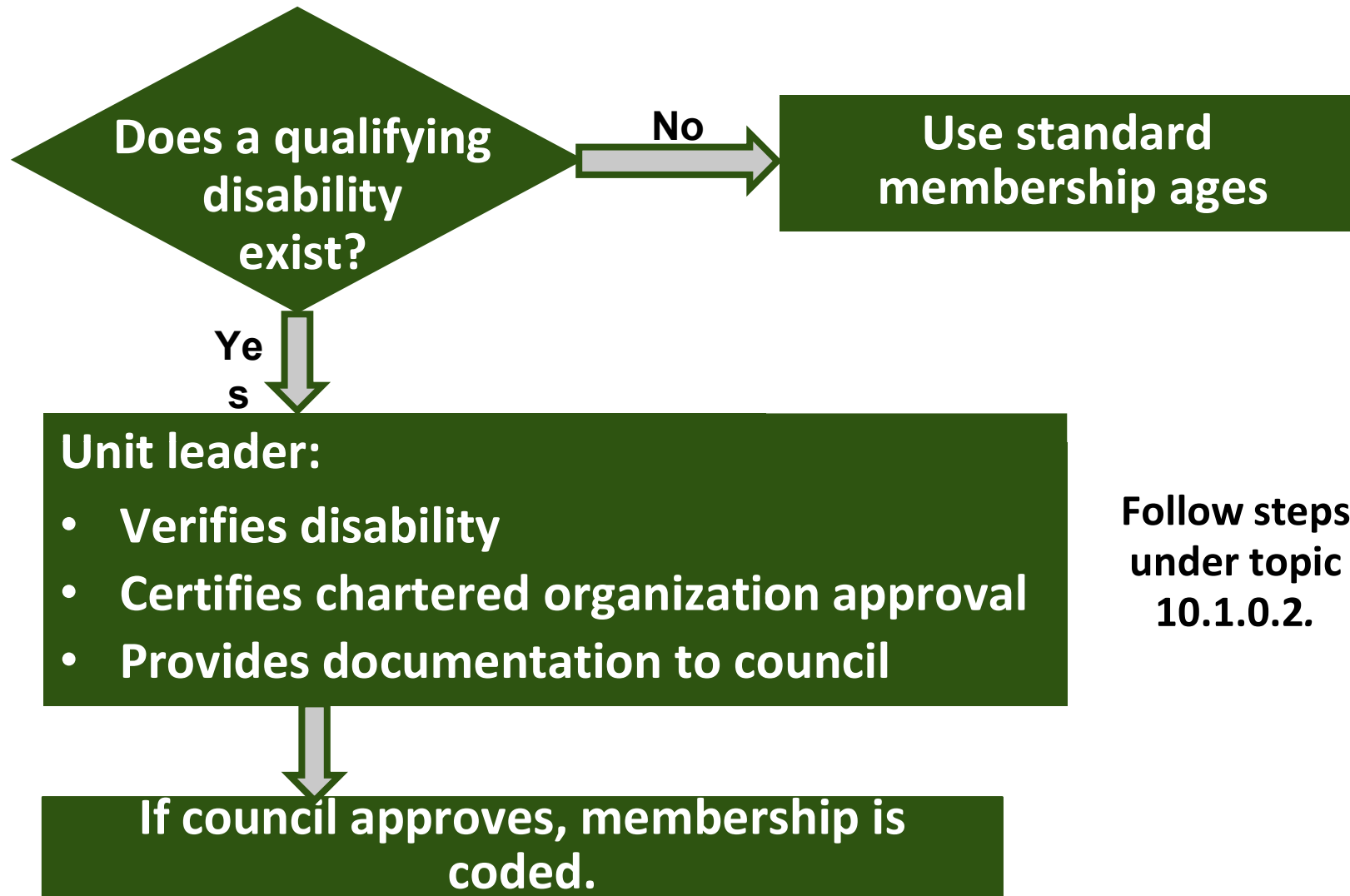
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Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

Guide to Advancement, Topics 10.1.0.0 & 10.1.0.2

- Submit [BSA No. 512-935](#)
- Disability must be documented as permanent and severe
- Arrangement is permanent; not an extension of time to earn a rank
- Process applies in all BSA programs from Cub Scouting through Venturing and Sea Scouts
- Council executive board must approve

Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility



Possible Criteria for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.1.0.1

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Blind or sight-impaired
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Cognitive disability
- Developmental delay
- Down Syndrome
- Emotional or behavioral disorder
- Physically disabled
- Traumatic brain injury
- Multiple coexisting disabilities

ADVANCEMENT FOR SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES

Getting to know your Scout's abilities and disabilities is important →

- **For ensuring they may also have a chance to reach their scouting goals**
- **By providing access to advancement options, or accommodations, when needed**

Accommodations in Advancement

“Most rank and merit badge requirements are written in ways that allow some flexibility in how they must be performed by a person with a disability.”

– ablescouts.org, Section E

Accommodations in Advancement

This can look like:

- A Scout with ***dysgraphia*** working on Environmental Science merit badge, chooses options not requiring handwriting
- A Scout with ***ADHD*** being taught 1st Aid skills for Tenderfoot rank needs help staying focused. They perform some of the steps while being taught, or they may need repeat instructions

Beyond Unit-Level Advancement Support

BSA Advancement rules are clear →

- no modifying RANK nor MERIT BADGE requirements
- a Scout earning their Eagle rank must submit final paperwork, *before* their 18th Birthday

**What if a Scout with a disability is unable to
complete advancement requirements
as written?**

Advancement Options – Filing for Modifications

Alternative rank requirements are available:

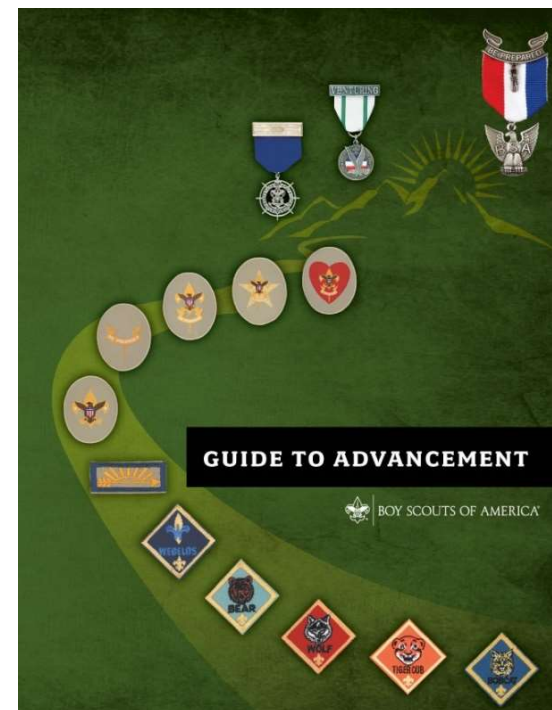
- Alternative Requirements, Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.2.0
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP), No. 512-936

Merit badge requirements must not be modified, but it is permitted to substitute one entire badge for another:

- Alternative Merit Badges, Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.2.3
- Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 512-73

Information on Advancement for Scouts w/ Disabilities

- *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088, Section 10 pp.76-80
- *Introduction to Working with Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities*, No. 510-071
- Abilities Digest-Able Scouts new “*Inclusion Toolbox*”:
www.ablescouts.org/toolbox/
 - Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 512-730
 - Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP), No. 512-936
 - Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility, No. 512-935



These, and other Advancement for Special Needs
Scouting resources, are available at:
www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/

Special Needs & Disabilities Resources

- **Parents/guardians, caregivers, and teachers**
- **The Scout who is disabled**
- **Your Peralta District AND representatives**

Your Peralta District SN&D Representative

- **Ed Barnes:** wedwardbarnes@sbcglobal.net
- **Gary Baysmore:** garybaysmor@comcast.net
- **Linda Owczarz:** l.owczarz@aol.com

Please contact us for more information and assistance on any of the topics we've presented tonight.

Thank you for participating!