

Erie Shores Council, BSA

disAbilities Membership Report



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disAbilities Awareness & Inclusion Committee

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Objective and Methodology

Background and Objectives

The Erie Shores Council disAbilities Awareness and Inclusion Committee conducted this survey, which was first introduced in 2015 and repeated in 2016 and 2017, to further quantify and understand the breakdown of Scouts with disabilities, within traditional units, throughout the Council in order to better serve Scouts and parents and to better support unit volunteers. Specific objectives include:

-  Understand the various disabilities that are represented within the council's membership
-  Determine the need to target specific training events by district or council
-  Understand the breakdown of different disabilities within each district
-  Determine how the committee may provide support and/or resources to individuals, units or districts

Methodology

To meet the objectives of the survey, a one-page disAbilities Membership survey was submitted to the Council to be included with the 2018 re-charter packets for each unit of the Erie Shores Council. Surveys were also provided electronically for volunteers and Council staff upon request. Upon completion of the initial rechartering cycle, reminders were sent to units that had not returned surveys. This was done via the council professional staff and Roundtable announcements. In addition, members of the Council disAbilities Awareness & Inclusion Committee followed up with individual units in cases where clarification was needed. Since the Scoutreach District units did not participate in the survey this year, their membership was not counted in the council's traditional membership totals.

Rate of Response percentages for the surveys of each district varied from 40.0% to 51.43%. This creates an overall response rate of 46.96% of the council's total traditional units.

This report includes all the council-wide findings from the survey. Statistics of individual districts are available upon request. A copy of the survey, tables of survey responses and registrar information are included in the report.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Survey Submitted

The survey submitted outlines both general and specific disabilities. The five traditional districts included were: Commodore Perry, Eagle Bay, Northwest, Swan Creek and Wood. As noted above, the Scoutreach District did not participate this year. The findings will be presented by overall Council totals.

2018 Erie Shores Council disAbilities Membership Survey

Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has had fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disAbilities. Scouting gives youth living with a disAbility the opportunity to participate alongside other youth. The Boy Scouts of America encourages the inclusion of Scouts with disAbilities in all of our units.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the extent, demographics, and population of Scouts with disAbilities in our Council by number of Scouts, i.e., not by name. This information will help us better serve all Scouts, provide leaders with resources and training to better serve the youth, and target specific areas of high need in regard to training and resources.

Please complete this survey to the best of your ability, and return with your re-chartering packet.

UNIT #: _____ **DISTRICT:** _____ **DATE:** _____
Pack, Troop, Crew, Post, or Ship AND Number

SCOUTS IN UNIT: _____ **# SCOUTS W/ DISABILITIES:** _____
Total Registered

SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE EARNED THE UNIT'S HIGHEST RANK IN THE PAST YEAR: _____
(i.e., Arrow of Light, Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster)

PERSON COMPLETING SURVEY: _____ **POSITION:** _____
(Please print)

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

(Note: Count each Scout only once. If Scouts have multiple disAbilities, use that category and list the disabilities.)

OF SCOUTS

_____ **Autism Spectrum Disorder** (including Asperger's Syndrome)

_____ **ADHD** (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)

_____ **Blind or Sight-Impaired**

_____ **Deaf or Hearing-Impaired**

_____ **Cognitive disability** (Learning disAbilities, reading disorders such as Dyslexia, writing disorders such as Dysgraphia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Speech Impairments, etc.)

_____ **Developmental delay**

_____ **Down Syndrome**

_____ **Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities** (Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc.)

_____ **Physically disabled** (Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, paralysis, mobility impairments, etc.)

_____ **Seizures / Epilepsy**

_____ **Traumatic brain injury**

_____ **Multiple Coexisting Disabilities** _____ & _____
Please specify 2 most prominent

_____ & _____

Council-wide totals for Traditional Scouting

Based on a total of 181 traditional units, survey data was received from 85 units resulting in a response rate of 46.96% of the units Council-wide. This 46.96% of units represented 1,936 or 49.49%, of the council's total 3,912 youth members in traditional units. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities totaled 361 or 18.65% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. *Please remember that this number does not include the Non-Traditional units within Scoutreach.* This data is based on the membership report data provided as of March 31, 2018 by our registrar and presented in the effort to provide for a year to year comparison based on previous studies.

The breakdown of special needs represented are:

Special Need (SN)	total	% Scouts	% Scouts w/disabilities
Autism Spectrum Disorder	56	2.89%	15.51%
ADHD	172	8.88%	47.65%
Sight Impairment	9	0.46%	2.49%
Hearing Impairment	6	0.31%	1.66%
Cognitive Disability ¹	33	1.70%	9.14%
Developmental Delay	14	0.72%	3.88%
Down Syndrome	4	0.21%	1.11%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities ²	31	1.60%	8.59%
Physically Disabled	9	0.46%	2.49%
Seizures/Epilepsy	3	0.15%	0.83%
Traumatic Brain Injuries	1	0.05%	0.28%
Multiple Diagnosis	23	1.19%	6.37%

The category of "multiple diagnosis" includes all listed diagnoses as appropriate. This category is exclusively for Scouts that have more than one diagnosis. Scouts identified with multiple diagnoses had each specific disability identified so that each disorder could be captured.

The percentage of youth with the respective disabilities in the council and/or districts is based on the premise that the reported youth represent a very similar percentage with that entire organization.

¹ Cognitive Disabilities include: learning disabilities, reading disorders such as Dyslexia, writing disorders such as Dysgraphia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Speech Impairments, etc.

² Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities include: Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc.

Conclusions and Observations

- ✧ First, it should be noted that the *reported* total traditional membership for the council varies significantly for the four years the survey was taken, making a true comparison of the results problematic. This is due to the *timing* of the membership totals used for the survey reports.
 - The total membership used for the 2015 survey was the January 31st membership which was **prior** to the greatest period of rechartering losses.
 - The total membership used for the 2016 survey was as of February 19th which was **after** the greatest rechartering losses but **before** lapsed units either rechartered or dropped.
 - The total membership used for the 2017 and 2018 surveys was as of March 31st which again reflects that date's membership **after** the effective date of the greatest rechartering losses.
- ✧ The 2018 rate of response (46.96%) increased from that of 2017 (43.6%). The responding units account for 49.49% of the council's traditional membership.
- ✧ Since the percentage of units participating roughly corresponds with the percentage of total council membership, we can draw statistically clear inferences regarding the actual percentage of youth with special needs being served in existing Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews and Explorer posts.
- ✧ If we can reasonably apply the 18.65% rate to the council's total of 3,912 youth members in *traditional units*, the inferred number of our *traditional* youth membership with disabilities is 730.
- ✧ The results of the survey provide us with valuable information that can be utilized to guide and refine the committee's efforts to develop training experiences intended to enhance the abilities of unit leadership to serve their members who have disabilities.

Recommendations

- ✧ Share the results of this survey with the council's executive board and professional staff, district operations group and program committees, and the BSA's National Disabilities Awareness Committee.
- ✧ Utilize the data to determine content of training events such as our annual University of Scouting for unit leaders as well as camp staff development for Scouts BSA at Camp Frontier and our Cub Scout day camp staff at Camp Miakonda.
- ✧ Seek like statistics of the general population and compare the statistics gathered by our survey in order to assess our effectiveness in serving this population as well as to identify areas of potential growth in units and membership.
- ✧ Utilize the results of the survey to support council membership and finance efforts in areas such as (but not limited to): documenting success regarding inclusion of Scouts with disabilities in unit membership, demonstrating care and concern to parents of youth having disabilities, marketing the use of Scouting programs to groups/agencies serving youth with disabilities, seeking grants to support programming.
- ✧ Since the results of the survey have remained relatively consistent all four years, determine whether it is necessary to repeat annually or to move to a different interval of use.