



ABILITY AWARENESS PATCH

Brownies and Juniors need to complete 7 of the 11 activities including the 2 that are starred. Cadettes and Seniors need to complete 9 of the 11 activities including the 2 that are starred.

People are born with different capabilities. Some people may be able to complete a task easier than others. Some people may need assistance in completing simple activities such as eating, walking or communicating. With the completion of this patch, you will be able to understand more about different types of disabilities.

- *1. To really understand what it is to have a disability, you must experience it. Simulate a disability while eating a meal or snack (i.e., tie an arm to the body to make it immobile and eat with the opposite hand, tape the fingers together with masking tape, including the thumb, and eat.) Have one person be a “guide” to help if you need help.
- *2. There are many different disabilities, for example cerebral palsy, spina bifida, epilepsy, Down’s syndrome, deafness, blindness, and diabetes. Research these disabilities and give a report to a group on what you find.
3. There are a lot of people in the world who have a disability. Make a list of famous people who have either learning, mental or physical challenges, communication disorders or visual impairments.
4. Many people who have either a speech or hearing impairment use sign language to communicate. Learn the basic letters of American sign language.

5. Learn the proper way to push a wheelchair, see a demonstration of the proper way to put on braces and lift a person. Talk to a physical therapist or someone who has experience with this and have them show you how to use them.
6. Look at your troop meeting surroundings. Is it accessible to people with disabilities? Make a list of what is and is not. What could be done to make it accessible? If possible, talk to someone and express your concern, to see what can be done.
7. There are many careers that assist people with special needs. Invite someone with such a career to your meeting and have her talk about her job requirements, and benefits. Some examples are a Special Education teacher, Physical Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Nurse, or a Social Worker.
8. Read a story about a person who is physically disabled. Learn how a person with disabilities adapts to everyday tasks.
9. With today's technology we are able to have closed-captioning on TV so people who have a hearing impairment can still enjoy TV. Watch a program, with only the closed captioning on. Watch another program with both the volume and the closed captioning on. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Are all programs closed captioned? How do you know if one is?
10. In today's society there are agencies/organizations that help serve people with special needs. Learn about some facilities in your community. If possible, invite someone to talk to your troop and find out what services they provide.
11. Find out if there is a wheelchair basketball team in your area. If there is, do one of the following: view a basketball game or have a player come to your troop and demonstrate wheelchair basketball skills and equipment. If there is not, see if you can find a game on television and watch it.