



Frequently Asked Questions about Special Needs and Scouting

*** Parents' Edition ***



Scouting Colorado has established its Special Needs Program to better support youths who participate in Scouting and have special needs. Our program, staffed by volunteers, works with all concerned to help assure these youths have a positive Scouting experience, whether they join a traditional unit or a special-purpose one focused on special needs. We offer services such as formal training, special needs awareness presentations, consultation, online resources, and documentation.

This document provides an introduction to special needs and Scouting. For best results, please refer to its online version, which contains live links to online resources and can be found by scanning this QR code or following the link

ScoutingColorado.info/SNFAQP



My child has special needs. Will he or she be welcome in Scouting?

The core values of Scouting include being helpful, friendly, and courteous, so we have a long history of accommodating special needs. If you would like your son or daughter to get involved in a program that teaches character, life skills, values, and leadership, [Scouting offers an excellent choice.](#)

However, our unit leaders are not typically care-giving professionals, but volunteers. They may not have training in or a deep understanding of your child's particular needs. Visit different units to see which would best suit your child.

Note the BSA has accepted girls and young women in some programs for 45 years and now supports female membership in them all.

How can I locate a unit for them to join?

Feel free to [contact us](#) for help in finding an appropriate unit. You can enter your zip code [here](#) to search nearby for [Cub Scout](#) dens, [Scouts BSA](#) troops, [Venturing](#) crews, [Sea Scouts](#) crews, or [Exploring](#) units.

I think Scouting might be great for my child, but they are past the age ranges you mention. Can they still join?

BSA policies allow for various accommodations for special needs that may [include the age of participation](#). The process is similar to the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of public schools. Explore your options with the leaders of the units you consider.

What involvement is required from a parent for their child to take part?

Although not mandatory, we strongly recommend parental involvement, especially for youths that require special attention and considerations.

Where can I learn more about special needs and Scouting?

[The Inclusion Toolbox](#) provides comprehensive guidelines for special needs and Scouting. It starts with basics such as the roles of [unit leaders](#) and [parents](#), and progresses to more specialized topics, such as the rules of advancement and accommodations.

[ScoutingColorado.info/SpecialNeeds](https://scoutingcolorado.info/SpecialNeeds), our home page, points you to resources at our council and in the vicinity.

Scouting America's [Special Needs and Disabilities page](#) provides extensive resources that include official guidelines, training bundles and webinars.

Who can I contact for further assistance?

Email AskSpecialNeeds@GoogleGroups.com or call 720 266-2144 to contact the Staff Adviser for Special Needs.