How to Use This Pamphlet

The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for you to use both the pamphlet and the suggestions of your counselor.

Your counselor can be as important to you as a coach is to an athlete. Use all of the resources your counselor can make available to you. This may be the best chance you will have to learn about this particular subject. Make it count.

If you or your counselor feels that any information in this pamphlet is incorrect, please let us know. Please state your source of information.

Merit badge pamphlets are reprinted annually and requirements updated regularly. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Who Pays for This Pamphlet?

This merit badge pamphlet is one in a series of more than 100 covering all kinds of hobby and career subjects. It is made available for you to buy as a service of the national and local councils, Boy Scouts of America. The costs of the development, writing, and editing of the merit badge pamphlets are paid for by the Boy Scouts of America in order to bring you the best book at a reasonable price.

Send comments along with a brief statement about yourself to
Pilots and Program Development, S272
Boy Scouts of America • 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane • Irving, TX 75038
If you prefer, you may send your comments to merit.badge@Scouting.org.

Merit Badge Pamphlet + Digi = iFun

Experience cutting-edge technology with the new digital merit badge pamphlet using your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Just purchase your digital pamphlet and you will have access to it—on the go—wherever you may be. The interactive digital version of the printed copy includes special features, videos, extra photos, and other supplemental information.

The interactive digital merit badge pamphlets, which are searchable, include a mix of
• How-to videos and animations
• Interactive question and answer quizzes
• Slide shows
• Career biographies and videos

For a current list of interactive digital merit badge pamphlets, go to www.boyslife.org/meritbadges. (Be sure you have your parent’s permission before you download or purchase anything online.)
DISABILITIES AWARENESS

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Do the following:
   a. Define and discuss with your counselor the following disabilities awareness terms: disability, accessibility, adaptation, accommodation, invisible disability, and person-first language.
   b. Explain why proper disability etiquette is important, and how it may differ depending on the specific disability.

2. Visit an agency that works with people with physical, mental, emotional, or educational disabilities. Collect and read information about the agency’s activities. Learn about opportunities its members have for training, employment, and education. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

3. Do TWO of the following:
   a. Talk with a Scout who has a disability and learn about his experiences taking part in Scouting activities and earning different merit badges. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
   b. Talk with an individual who has a disability and learn about this person’s experiences and the activities in which this person likes to participate. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
   c. Learn how people with disabilities take part in a particular adaptive sport or recreational activity. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
   d. Learn about independent living aids such as service animals, canes, and augmentative communication devices such as captioned telephones and videophones. Discuss with your counselor how people use such aids.
e. Plan or participate in an activity that helps others understand what a person with a visible or invisible disability experiences. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

4. Do EITHER option A or option B:

**Option A.** Visit TWO of the following locations and take notes about the accessibility to people with disabilities. In your notes, give examples of five things that could be done to improve upon the site and five things about the site that make it friendly to people with disabilities. Discuss your observations with your counselor.

- Your school
- Your place of worship
- A Scouting event or campsite
- A public exhibit or attraction (such as a theater, museum, or park)

**Option B.** Visit TWO of the following locations and take notes while observing features and methods that are used to accommodate people with invisible disabilities. While there, ask staff members to explain any accommodation features that may not be obvious. Note anything you think could be done to better accommodate people who have invisible disabilities. Discuss your observations with your counselor.

- Your school
- Your place of worship
- A Scouting event or campsite
- A public exhibit or attraction (such as a theater, museum, or park)

5. Explain what advocacy is. Do ONE of the following advocacy activities:

a. Present a counselor-approved disabilities awareness program to a Cub Scout pack or other group. During your presentation, explain and use person-first language.

b. Find out about disabilities awareness education programs in your school or school system, or contact a disability advocacy agency. Volunteer with a program or agency for eight hours.
c. Using resources such as disability advocacy agencies, government agencies, the internet (with your parent’s permission), and news magazines, learn about myths and misconceptions that influence the general public’s understanding of people with disabilities. List 10 myths and misconceptions about people with disabilities and learn the facts about each myth. Share your list with your counselor, then use it to make a presentation to a Cub Scout pack or other group.

6. Make a commitment to your merit badge counselor describing what you will do to show a positive attitude about people with disabilities and to encourage positive attitudes among others. Discuss how your awareness has changed as a result of what you have learned.

7. Name five professions that provide services to people with disabilities. Pick one that interests you and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss what you learn with your counselor, and tell why this profession interests you.
Disabilities Awareness Resources

Scouting Literature

Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Athletics, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Digital Technology, Engineering, First Aid, Inventing, Medicine, Public Speaking, Robotics, Signs, Signals, and Codes, and Sports merit badge pamphlets; Guide to Safe Scouting, No. 34416; and Guide to Advancement, No. 33088 (section 10.0.0.0)

Visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8567

Recordings of the Boy Scout Handbook and various merit badge pamphlets. Learning Ally.
Toll-free telephone: 800-221-4792

Send requests via email to advancement.team@scouting.org.

The following materials are available at www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx:

- Scouting With Special Needs and Disabilities, an information sheet
- Guide to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and Disabilities, No. 510-071
- Scouting for Youth With Disabilities Manual, No. 34059
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan, No. 512-936
- Abilities Digest newsletter

For more information, email Disabilities.Awareness@scouting.org.

Books

Fiction
Many of these novels are classics available in several editions and formats including audio and large print.


Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind.* Atheneum Books, 2012. When a girl with cerebral palsy who cannot walk or talk is given a device that lets her “speak,” she surprises everyone around her.


Konigsburg, E.L. *The View from Saturday.* Aladdin Paperbacks, 1998. Four unique students attract the attention of their paraplegic teacher, who chooses them to represent their class in the Academic Bowl.


Martin, Ann M. *A Corner of the Universe.* Scholastic, 2004. After a school for people with developmental disabilities closes, a family must deal with a childlike young man whose existence they have denied for years.


Philbrick, Rodman. *Freak the Mighty.* Scholastic Paperbacks, 2001. Two boys unite to become a powerful team, using their unique, differently abled talents as their strengths.


Winkler, Henry. *Niagara Falls, or Does It?* Turtleback Books, 2003. In a series inspired by the author’s own experiences with undiagnosed dyslexia, a fourth-grader decides to “show” how he spent his summer instead of writing the usual essay.

**Nonfiction**


Floyd, Ingrid. *Opening the Gate: Stories and Activities About Athletes With Disabilities*. CreateSpace, 2013. An introduction to the world of wheelchairs and prosthetics, with outstanding athletes recounting the experiences that helped them participate effectively in sports and led them to the top of their athletic careers.


Oleksy, Walter G. *Christopher Reeve.* Greenhaven Press, 1999. Discusses the life-altering accident of the actor known for his role as Superman and for his efforts on behalf of people with spinal cord injuries.


Organizations and Websites

In addition to those listed here, many local and regional organizations support people with disabilities. Internet searches (with your parent’s permission) will help you find them.

**AbleData**
103 W. Broad St., Suite 400
Falls Church, VA 22046
Toll-free telephone: 800-227-0216
Website: http://www.abledata.com

**American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**
9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 200
Rosemont, IL 60018
Toll-free telephone: 877-227-6799
Website: http://www.aapmr.org

**American Association of People With Disabilities**
2013 H St. NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-840-8844
Website: http://www.aapd.com

**American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**
501 Third St. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: 202-387-1968
Website: http://aaidd.org

**American Council of the Blind**
1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 420
Arlington, VA 22201
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8666
Website: http://acb.org

**American Foundation for the Blind**
2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1102
New York, NY 10121
Telephone: 212-502-7600
Website: http://afb.org

**American Printing House for the Blind Inc.**
1839 Frankfort Ave.
P.O. Box 6085
Louisville, KY 40206-0085
Toll-free telephone: 800-223-1839
Website: http://www.aph.org

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**
2200 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850-3289
Toll-free telephone: 800-638-8255
Website: http://www.asha.org

**The Arc**
1825 K St. NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-433-5255
Website: http://www.thearc.org

**Attention Deficit Disorder Association**
P.O. Box 7557
Wilmington, DE 19803-9997
Toll-free telephone: 800-939-1019
Website: http://www.add.org

**Autism Empowerment**
P.O. Box 871676
Vancouver, WA 98687
Telephone: 360-852-8369
Website: http://www.autismempowerment.org

**Autism Society**
4340 East-West Highway, Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814
Toll-free telephone: 800-328-8476
Website: http://www.autism-society.org

**Autism Speaks**
1 E. 33rd St., Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10016
Telephone: 212-252-8584
Website: http://www.autismspeaks.org
BlazeSports America
1670 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 331
Norcross, GA 30093
Telephone: 404-270-2000
Website: http://blazesports.org

Bookshare
Website: http://www.bookshare.org

Brain Injury Association of America
1608 Spring Hill Road, Suite 110
Vienna, VA 22182
Telephone: 703-761-0750
Website: http://www.biausa.org

Children and Adults With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
National Resource Center on ADHD
4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 300
Lanham, MD 20706
Toll-free telephone: 800-233-4050
Website: http://www.chadd.org

Disability.gov
Website: http://www.disability.gov

Disability Is Natural
P.O. Box 39076
San Antonio, TX 78218
Telephone: 210-320-0678
Website: http://www.disabilityisnatural.com

Disabled American Veterans
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Toll-free telephone: 877-426-2838
Website: http://www.dav.org

Disabled Sports USA
451 Hungerford Drive, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20850
Telephone: 301-217-0960
Website: http://www.disabledsportsusa.org

Easter Seals
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60606
Toll-free telephone: 800-221-6827
Website: http://www.easterseals.com

Goodwill Industries International Inc.
15810 Indiana Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
Toll-free telephone: 800-466-3945
Website: http://www.goodwill.org

Guide Dogs for the Blind
P.O. Box 151200
San Rafael, CA 94915-1200
Toll-free telephone: 800-295-4050
Website: http://www.guidedogs.com

Helping Hands
541 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02134
Telephone: 617-787-4419
Website: http://monkeyhelpers.org/

International Dyslexia Association
40 York Road, Fourth Floor
Baltimore, MD 21204
Telephone: 410-296-0232
Website: http://www.interdys.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America
4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349
Telephone: 412-341-1515
Website: http://ldanatl.org

Mental Health America
2000 N. Beauregard St., Sixth Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
Toll-free telephone: 800-969-6642
Website: http://mentalhealthamerica.net
**Disabilities Awareness Resources**

**Muscular Dystrophy Association USA**
222 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60606
Toll-free telephone: 800-572-1717
Website: http://www.mda.org

**National Association of the Deaf**
8630 Fenton St., Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3819
Telephone: 301-587-1788
Website: http://www.nad.org

**National Center for Learning Disabilities**
32 Laight St., Second Floor
New York, NY 10013
Toll-free telephone: 888-575-7373
Website: http://www.ncld.org

**National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability**
4000 Ridgeway Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209
Toll-free telephone: 800-900-8086
Website: http://www.nchpad.org

**National Down Syndrome Congress**
30 Mansell Court, Suite 108
Roswell, GA 30076
Telephone: 800-232-6372
Website: http://ndscccenter.org

**National Down Syndrome Society**
666 Broadway, Eighth Floor
New York, NY 10012
Toll-free telephone: 800-221-4602
Website: http://www.ndss.org

**National Federation of the Blind**
200 E. Wells St. at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230
Telephone: 410-659-9314
Website: http://nfb.org

**National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**
1291 Taylor St. NW
Washington, DC 20542
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8567
Website: http://www.loc.gov/nls

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society**
P.O. Box 4527
New York, NY 10163
Toll-free telephone: 800-344-4867
Website: http://www.nationalmssociety.org

**National Organization on Disability**
77 Water St., Suite 204
New York, NY 10005
Telephone: 646-505-1191
Website: http://www.nod.org

**National Rehabilitation Information Center**
8400 Corporate Drive, Suite 500
Landover, MD 20785
Toll-free telephone: 800-346-2742
Website: http://www.naric.com

**Special Olympics International**
1133 19th St. NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604
Toll-free telephone: 800-700-8585
Website: http://specialolympics.org

**TASH**
(Equity, Opportunity, and Inclusion for People with Disabilities)
2013 H St. NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-540-9020
Website: http://tash.org
Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554
Toll-free telephone: 888-225-5322
Website:
http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs

United Cerebral Palsy
1825 K St. NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
Toll-free telephone: 800-872-5827
Website: http://ucp.org

United States Association of Blind Athletes
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Telephone: 719-866-3224
Website: http://usaba.org

USA Deaf Sports Federation
P.O. Box 2011
Santa Fe, NM 87502
Website: http://www.usdeafsports.org

U.S. Paralympics
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5760
Telephone: 719-866-2030
Website: http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics

Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA
P.O. Box 621023
Littleton, CO 80162
Telephone: 720-412-7979
Website:
http://www.adaptivesportsusa.org

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