

Cub Scout Academics: Disabilities Awareness



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Visit with a friend, family member, classmate, or other person with disabilities. Find out what this person enjoys and what this person finds difficult.
- _____ 2. Attend a disabilities event such as an Easter Seals event, Special Olympics, a performance with sign language interpretation, an activity with Guiding Eyes dogs, or a wheelchair race. Tell your adult leader what you thought about the experience.
- _____ 3. Make a display about one or more disabilities. It can include physical, learning, or mental challenges. Share the display at a pack meeting.

Academics Pin

Earn the Disabilities Awareness belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. People with disabilities move around in different ways such as crutches, scooters, and wheelchairs. Explain the differences. With an adult's supervision and permission, try to safely use one.

- _____ 2. Using sign language, demonstrate the Cub Scout Promise and motto.
- _____ 3. Read a book about a person with a disability.
- _____ 4. Explain how your school helps students with disabilities (elevators, ramps, small classes, special tools and equipment, specialized teachers).
- _____ 5. Describe one of the following and its purpose: occupational therapy, speech therapy, or physical therapy. Visit with a person who works in one of these fields and learn about his or her position.
- _____ 6. Read about a famous person who has been physically or mentally challenged. Report what you learned to your den or family.
- _____ 7. For two one-hour periods, and with adult supervision, go about your normal routine doing chores, watching television, studying, etc. Change your abilities by using one of these experiences, then share what you learned with your den.
 - Hearing impairment—Muffle your ears with earmuffs or bandages.
 - Sight impairment—Blindfold one or both eyes.
 - Physical impairment—Bind an arm or leg so that it cannot be used.

Resources

Your local library, schools, and the Internet are all excellent sources of information about disabilities awareness. These organizations and agencies may also be helpful. Be sure you have your parent's or adult partner's permission before you go online.

American Association of People With Disabilities

Toll-free phone: 800-840-8844

Web site: <http://www.aapd.com>

American Foundation for the Blind

Toll-free phone: 800-232-5463

Web site: <http://www.afb.org>

The Arc of the United States

Phone: 301-565-3842

Toll-free phone: 800-433-5255

Web site: <http://www.thearc.org>

Autism Society of America

Phone: 301-657-0881

Toll-free phone: 800-328-8476

Web site: <http://www.autism-society.org>

Autism Speaks

Phone: 212-252-8584

Web site: <http://www.autismspeaks.org>

Easter Seals

Toll-free phone: 800-221-6827

Web site: <http://www.easterseals.com>

Federation for Children With Special Needs

Phone: 617-236-7210

Web site: <http://www.fcsn.org>

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Toll-free phone: 800-295-4050

Web site: <http://www.guidedogs.com>

International Dyslexia Association

Phone: 410-296-0232

Web site: <http://www.interdys.org>

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Toll-free phone: 800-572-1717

Web site: <http://www.mda.org>

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Phone: 703-524-7600

Web site: <http://www.nami.org>

National Association of the Deaf

Phone: 301-587-1788

TTY phone: 301-587-1789

Web site: <http://www.nad.org>

National Center for Learning Disabilities

Phone: 212-545-7510

Toll-free phone: 888-575-7373

Web site: <http://www.nclld.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children With Disabilities

Toll-free phone: 800-695-0285

Web site: <http://www.nichcy.org>

Special Olympics International

Toll-free phone: 800-700-8585

Web site: <http://www.specialolympics.org>

United Cerebral Palsy

Toll-free phone: 800-872-5827

Web site: <http://www.ucp.org>

- Speaking impairment—Cover your mouth or do not speak.

- Choose an impairment of your own that is approved by an adult.

8. Look at a catalog and find three items that could help a person with disabilities in their daily life. Explain how each item would help the individual.
9. Volunteer and help someone with disabilities in school, sports or another supervised activity.
10. Visit a nursing home or elderly person and help someone with a meal.
11. Talk to someone who works with people who have disabilities. Ask what the person's position is like and how he or she helps people with disabilities.

Occupational therapy: Therapy that uses creative activities in rehabilitation (therapy to improve upon a lost or weakened function) related to physical, mental, and emotional disabilities.

Speech therapy: Therapy that uses exercises and audiovisual aids in building new speech habits.

Physical therapy: Therapy that uses exercise, massage, hydrotherapy (water therapy), etc., for the treatment of physical disabilities as an alternative to treatment such as medicine or surgery.