

2025 National Capital Area Council University of Scouting - College of Cub Scouting

**CUB 206: Cub Scouting with Special
Needs**

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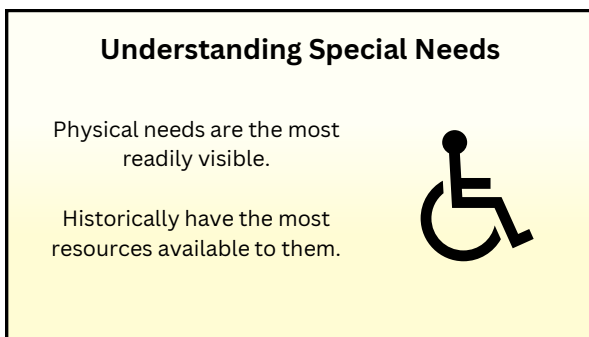
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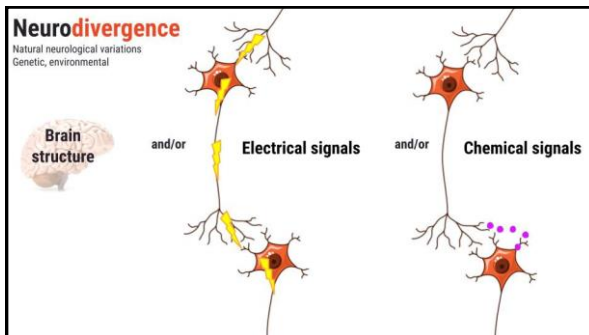
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Creating Inclusive Scouting Spaces



AbleScouts

Inclusion Toolbox

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Creating Inclusive Scouting Spaces



Be flexible

Seek to understand

Communicate with
parents

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Creating Inclusive Scouting Spaces

Parents – Concerns Vary Widely

Open, up front, honest - looking for support
 New to learning about their child's difference
 Worried about oversharing
 Afraid of child in any social/interactive environment
 Don't see, or refuse to see, difficulty integrating
 Willfully closed to seeing differences, hearing labels
 Tired and wanting respite care

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Inclusive Accommodations

- Sensory Accommodations:
 - Quiet space available for scouts needing an emotional regulation break?
 - Uniforms for scouts with sensory overload - Class A or B?
- Mobility Considerations:
 - Wheelchair-accessibility
 - Availability of adapted technology (example: fishing rods easier for fine motor skills)
 - Hikes - paved trails, pre-hike to scout access points

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Inclusive Accommodations

- Processing Differences:
 - Clear, concise instructions; visual aids (e.g., charts, pictures)
 - Extra time for activities and discussions
 - ADHD - Stress reactions – extended time still results in last-minute task completion
- Structured Routines:
 - Visual schedules to outline session, helping scouts know what to expect

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Inclusive Accomodations

- Emotional Regulation:
 - Quiet Corner - to calm down if overwhelmed
 - Social stories to prepare for group activities or transitions
 - ChatGPT or other AI
 - Provide to the family ahead of time to help set expectations.
- Social Skills Development:
 - Encourage role-playing scenarios
 - Team-Building Activities – cooperative games that require communication and teamwork at comfort level
 - Story Time – Stories with relatable characters facing challenges
 - Engage families according to talents and passion

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Inclusive Accomodations

- **Open Communication:** Regularly check in with families
- **Flexible Planning:** Design activities with built-in flexibility, allowing for modifications based on real-time feedback. *Remember everyone's best looks different!*
- **Awareness:** Training on recognizing, addressing diverse needs, ensuring all feel supported and understood.
- **Encourage Peer Support:** Foster environment where scouts learn to help each other, promoting friendships, teamwork across varying abilities.

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Event Planning

Pack Meetings

- **Observation:** Watch for signs of discomfort or disengagement: body language, withdrawal, or difficulty following along.
- **Feedback:** Regularly ask families for feedback about meeting environment and child's experience.



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Event Planning

Pack Meetings:

- **Set Clear Expectations:** Clearly outline agenda, use visual aids.
- **Flexible Activities:** Incorporate variety of activities that allow for movement, quiet time, and sensory engagement.



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Event Planning

Den Meetings:

- **Know Your Scouts:** Gather information from families about specific needs or accommodations well in advance.
- **Activity Planning:** Choose activities that allow for adaptability. Ensure that materials and tools are accessible to everyone.



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Event Planning

Den Meetings:

- **Routine:** Establish consistent routine so scouts know what to expect. Use visuals or charts.
- **Diverse Activities:** Include mix of physical, creative, social activities that cater to different interests and abilities. For example, combine a nature hike with a quiet reflection activity.



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Event Planning

Food:

- Ask families to inform you about allergies, sensitivities, dietary restrictions.
- Clearly label all food items, including ingredients, to help all feel safe.
- Always provide safe alternatives for scouts with dietary restrictions.
- Encourage Contribution. Invite families to contribute to meals, ensuring that those with dietary needs can provide their preferred foods.



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Scouting America Accommodation of Special Needs



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Do Your Best

Completion of all Cub Scout requirements is on the basis of the leader's determination of the Scout's best effort.

This principle allows flexible implementation of all Cub Scout requirements.



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Special Needs Pack vs Inclusive Pack



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Special Needs Pack vs Inclusive Pack

Inclusive (Mainstream) Pack

- Diversity reflects society at large
- Scouts with and without special needs interact, support each other
- Scouts with special needs grow from challenge of unmodified program implementation, schedule

Special Needs Pack

- "Do Your Best" definition, program pace calibrated to Scouts with special needs
- All achieve, advance at same rate and in the same way
- Scouts insulated from interaction with Scouts without special needs

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