

AWARE AND CARE



ELECTIVE ADVENTURE

Complete the following requirements.

Approved by

1. Develop an awareness of the challenges of the blind or visually impaired through participation in an activity that simulates blindness or visual impairment. Alternatively, participate in an activity that simulates the challenges of being deaf or hard of hearing. _____
2. Engage in an activity that simulates mobility impairment. Alternatively, take part in an activity that simulates dexterity impairment. _____
3. With your den, participate in an activity that focuses on the acceptance of differences in general. _____
4. Do two of the following:
 - A. Do a Good Turn for residents at a skilled nursing facility or retirement community. _____
 - B. Invite an individual with a disability to visit your den, and discuss what activities he or she currently finds challenging or found challenging in the past. _____
 - C. Attend a disabilities event such as a Special Olympics competition, an adaptive sports event, a performance with sign language interpretation, or an activity with service dogs. Tell your den what you thought about the experience. _____
 - D. Talk to someone who works with people who have disabilities. Ask what the person does and how he or she helps people with disabilities. _____
 - E. Using American Sign Language, sign the Scout Oath. _____
 - F. With the help of an adult, contact a service dog organization, and learn the entire process from pup training to assignment to a client. _____
 - G. Participate in a service project that focuses on a specific disability. _____
 - H. Participate in an activity with an organization whose members are disabled. _____

SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE

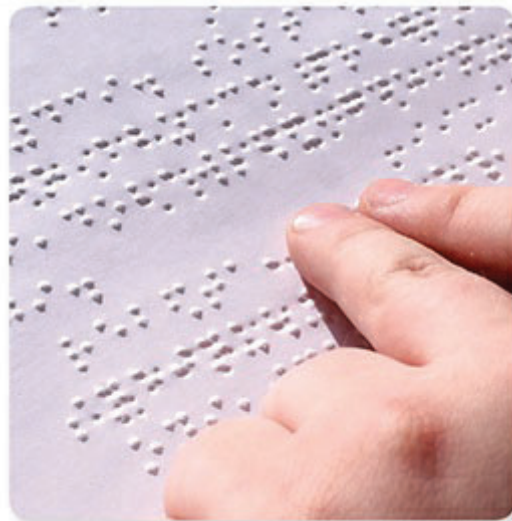
Everyone has differences, and everyone faces challenges. That's what makes us human. In this adventure, you will learn about the challenges other people face by looking at the world through their eyes. The more you understand, the more helpful you can be—and the more you can show your friends how to be nice to everyone, including people who are different. After all, we are all different in one way or another!



COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS.

REQUIREMENT 1 | Develop an awareness of the challenges of the blind or visually impaired through participation in an activity that simulates blindness or visual impairment. Alternatively, participate in an activity that simulates the challenges of being deaf or hard of hearing.

Vision is the ability to see with your eyes. Blindness is a lack of vision. Some people are totally blind, meaning they can't see anything at all. Others have partial blindness. They might see things as vague shadows, for example, or not be able to see at all after dark.



People who are totally blind must use their other senses to make up for their lack of vision. For example, when blind people cross a street, they can't look and listen for cars like other people can; instead, they can only listen, which means they must listen very carefully. They also can't see the walk signs that sighted people rely on. That's why some communities have talking walk signs.

Many blind people use service dogs or canes to help them get around. They read books in Braille, which is a system that uses raised dots on the page to stand for letters, and they rely on computers that read webpages out loud. They also rely on sighted friends to help them out from time to time, especially in unfamiliar surroundings.

You can simulate what it's like to be blind by putting on a blindfold and walking around your home. (Have a friend or family member serve as a spotter so you don't hurt yourself.) Try this activity: Walk to your kitchen, fix a snack, sit down at the table, and eat. Were you successful? That's something blind people do every day.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.

Like visual impairments, there are many degrees of hearing loss. Some people are totally deaf, meaning they can't hear anything. Others have trouble understanding what someone is saying when there is a lot of background noise. Some people are born deaf. Others lose all or part of their hearing as they age. In fact, everyone loses the ability to hear very high-pitched sounds when they get older. As a Webelos Scout, you can hear some sounds that your parents and den leader can't hear at all!

There are many ways to address hearing loss. Hearing aids are a great tool for people who have some hearing. These devices go in or behind the ear and make sounds louder or easier to hear.



Some deaf people learn to read lips. Others use sign language, which is a

language that is “spoken” with the hands, not the mouth. Sign language uses the shape, placement, and movement of the hands, as well as facial expressions and body movement, to convey meaning. Just as there are many different spoken languages, there are many different sign languages. American Sign Language is used mostly in the United States and Canada.

A good way to experience what it’s like to be deaf is to watch television with the sound turned off (or with the sound turned low and a radio blaring nearby). Watch a favorite show that you’ve seen before and try to read the lips of the actors. Can you follow the story? What happens when you can’t see an actor’s lips?

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.

REQUIREMENT 2 | Engage in an activity that simulates mobility impairment. Alternatively, take part in an activity that simulates dexterity impairment.

Mobility impairment means a reduced ability to get around on your legs. Some people are born with a mobility impairment because of conditions like spina bifida. Others lose the ability to walk due to age, illness, or accidents. Someone who breaks a leg and has to wear a cast for a few months has a temporary mobility impairment.

Like other disabilities, there are ways to compensate for mobility impairments. Many people use crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs to get around. People who have lost parts of their legs might even have prosthetic replacements that let them run, jump, and play sports.

A big obstacle for many people with mobility impairments is accessibility in homes and businesses. If you used a wheelchair, would you be able to get from the street to your bedroom? Are the doors in your home wide enough for a wheelchair to go through (at least 32 inches wide)?

If you are able to borrow a wheelchair or crutches, you can simulate a mobility impairment by trying to maneuver around your home or school. Or you could immobilize one of your legs by tying a long stick or splint to it both above and below your knee. See what it's like to walk when you can't bend your leg.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.

Dexterity refers to the ability to use your hands and fingers to do everything from getting dressed to playing a musical instrument to shooting a basketball. Someone who breaks a finger or develops a condition like arthritis may find activities like fastening buttons or tying shoes a challenge.

To see what it's like to have a dexterity impairment, try to get dressed while wearing a pair of thick winter gloves. For an even harder challenge, tape a couple of the glove's fingers together.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity

made you feel.



REQUIREMENT 3 | With your den, participate in an activity that focuses on the acceptance of differences in general.

We are all different. Some of us wear glasses. Some of us have freckles or dimples. Some of us are really good at math or reading or sports, while others of us struggle in those areas.

Some people have disabilities that others can see, while other people might have disabilities that can't be seen. Those disabilities are often called "invisible" disabilities.



Learning about differences helps us understand each other. For this requirement, do an activity with your den that focuses on accepting differences. Ask your den leader about the One Potato, My Potato game; it might be just what you are looking for. How did what you learned in requirements 1 and 2 help you understand differences among people?

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.

REQUIREMENT 4 | Do two of the following:

REQUIREMENT 4A | Do a Good Turn for residents at a skilled nursing facility or retirement community.

Some people who live in skilled nursing facilities and retirement communities have disabilities like you have learned about in this adventure.

With the help of your parent or den leader, find a skilled nursing facility or retirement community and do a Good Turn there. If possible, spend some time with the residents. Ask them what life was like when they were your age. You may even find someone who was a Webelos Scout like you!



REQUIREMENT 4B | Invite an individual with a disability to visit your den, and discuss what activities he or she currently finds challenging or found challenging in the past.

It's one thing to ride in a wheelchair for 10 or 15 minutes. It's another thing entirely to use a wheelchair all day every day. Talk with someone who has a physical impairment and find out about the challenges he or she faces and the challenges he or she has overcome.



REQUIREMENT 4C | Attend a disabilities event such as a Special Olympics competition, an adaptive sports event, a performance with sign language interpretation, or an activity with service dogs. Tell your den what you thought about the experience.

There are many organizations that work to make life easier and more fun for people with disabilities. Attend an event or activity sponsored by one of those organizations, and tell your den what you learned. Don't be surprised if you forget about the disabilities involved and get caught up in the action. That's exactly what you should do: Focus on people, not their disabilities!



REQUIREMENT 4D | Talk to someone who works with people who have disabilities. Ask what the person does and how he or she helps people with disabilities.

All sorts of people work with those who have disabilities. Some have disabilities themselves; others just want to make the world a better place for everyone. Learn more about one of those people, what their responsibilities are like, and what they enjoy about their job.



REQUIREMENT 4E | Using American Sign Language, sign the Scout Oath.

American Sign Language is a completely separate language. You have to learn it just like you might learn Spanish or Chinese. To get an idea of what it's like, learn the Scout Oath in American Sign Language.



Scout



Oath ("Promise")



On



My



honor



I



(will) do



(my) best



To



(do my) duty



(to) God



(and) my



country



(and) to



obey



(the) Scout



Law;



To



help ("people")



("help") (other) people





at all times ("always");



To (keep)



(myself) physically



strong,



mentally



awake, (and)



morally



straight.



NOTE: Did you notice that some English words are not signed in American Sign Language? American Sign Language is a conceptual language, which

means that not every word of spoken English is signed. Some words are also signed in a different order. For example, the phrase “help other people at all times” can be signed as “people, help, always.”

REQUIREMENT 4F | With the help of an adult, contact a service dog organization, and learn the entire process from pup training to assignment to a client.

Did you know that many families like yours help train service dogs? Find an organization that provides service dogs, and learn about the training process.



REQUIREMENT 4G | Participate in a service project that focuses on a specific disability.

Organizations for people with disabilities always need help. Find an organization that focuses on a specific disability, and ask what you can do to help it or the people it serves.



REQUIREMENT 4H | Participate in an activity with an organization whose members are disabled.

For this requirement, find an organization for people with disabilities and participate in one of its activities.

Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Serve as a ball boy or ball girl at a Special Olympics softball game.
- ◆ Attend a holiday party at a group home for people with developmental disabilities.
- ◆ Go on a campout with a pack of Cub Scouts who have special needs.
- ◆ Participate in a field trip with residents of a skilled nursing facility.



A Scout is friendly. Offer a smile to others at the event—you might make a new friend!

