

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE SCOUTING

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL HAS A COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS.



This committee:

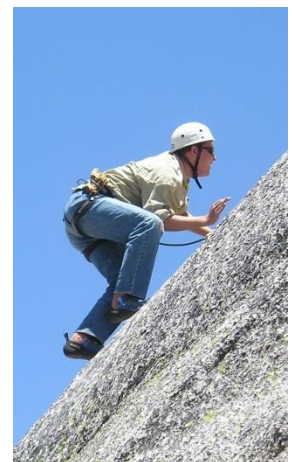
- acts as an **advocate** for these Scouts, their families and their leaders;
- works closely with the Council Advancement Committee on meeting the National Council's **alternate requirements policy**;
- provides **guidance** to packs and troops in developing alternate advancement requirements for their Scouts;
- helps Scouts develop an **Individual Scout Achievement Plan**;
- works with the Camping Committee to ensure **accessible camp facilities**;
- serves as a resource to assist packs and troops with **parent-leader conferences**;
- provides guidance to the use of relevant **BSA resources** listed on the back of this page; and
- identifies other **community resources** to assist with Scouting for youth with disabilities.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has had fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive, was a person with a disability. Although most of the BSA's efforts have been directed at keeping such boys in the mainstream of Scouting, it has also recognized the special needs of those with severe disabilities.

THE BASIC PREMISE of Scouting for youth with disabilities and special needs is that they want most to participate like other youth, and Scouting gives them that opportunity. Much of the program for Scouts with disabilities and special needs is directed at (1) helping unit leaders develop an awareness of the capabilities of youth with disabilities and the resources within and outside of Scouting, and (2) encouraging the inclusion of Scouts with disabilities and special needs in Cub Scout packs, Scout troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships.

THE BSA'S ADVANCEMENT POLICY treats members with disabilities and special needs as much like other members as possible, but the council may make some accommodations in advancement requirements, if necessary. The BSA rules and guidelines for alternate requirements are available from this Council Advisory Committee, and the Council Advancement Committee approves these applications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about how to help provide the best Scouting experience for Scouts with disabilities and special needs, their families, and their Scout leaders, or to offer resources and assistance, contact the Armineh (Abbey) Hacobian, Chair, Council Advisory Committee for Scouts with Disabilities and Special Needs, at ArminehHacobian@gmail.com or 818-563-4122. See also the VHC Resources Page at <http://vhcbasa.org/special/resources.htm>.



BSA Resources for Scouts with Disabilities and Special Needs

In the fall of 2014, BSA's National Advancement Team released several forms to assist Scouts with disabilities. These forms have been available as appendices to other publications, but they were released as updated, separate documents to make it easier to locate and use them. The new forms — and many other great resources — may be found at the BSA's Disabilities Awareness webpage:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/disabilities-awareness>

The forms include:

- Individual Scout Advancement Plan (No. 512-936)
- Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges (No. 512-730)
- Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility (No. 512-935)

See also:

Introduction to Working With Scouts With Special Needs and Disabilities

(<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/510-071.pdf>)

Guide to Advancement (No. 33088, 2019)

(<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>)

See section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs.”

Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual (No. 34059, 2009)

(<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/commissioner/pdf/34059.pdf>)

Currently being rewritten as a *Guide To Disabilities Awareness* — 8 MB)

See especially:

- Advancement requirements for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (p. 25-31)
- Alternate Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks (p. 28)
- Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges (p. 29)
- Sample of an Application for Approval of Modification of Requirements (p. 113)
- Sample of an Individual Scout Advancement Plan (p. 115)

Annual Health and Medical Record

(<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>)

Cub Scout Leader Book (No. 33221)

(available from your Scout Shop or at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>)

See especially: Chapter 17 – Cub Scouts With Disabilities

Cub Scout Leader How-To Book (No. 33832)

(available from your Scout Shop or at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>)

See especially: Chapter 7. Cub Scouts With Special Needs

Autism Empowerment / Autism and Scouting (unofficial)

(<http://www.autismempowerment.org/autism-scouting-program/>)