



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL



### Frequently Asked Questions about Special Needs and Scouting

\*\*\* Parents' Edition \*\*\*



The Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has established its Special Needs Program to better support youths who participate in Scouting and have special needs. Our program, staffed by volunteers, works with all concerned to help assure that such youths have a positive Scouting experience, whether participating in a traditional unit or one that specializes in special needs. We offer services such as formal training, special needs awareness presentations, consultation, online resources, and documentation.

This document provides an introduction to special needs and Scouting. For best results, please refer to its online version, which contains live links to online resources and can be found by scanning this QR code or following the link [DenverBoyScouts.org/SNFAQP](https://DenverBoyScouts.org/SNFAQP).



#### ***My child has special needs. Will he or she be welcome in Scouting?***

The core values of Scouting include being helpful, friendly, and courteous, so we have a long history of accommodating special needs. If you would like your son or daughter to get involved in a program that teaches character, life skills, values, and leadership, Scouting offers an excellent choice.

However, our unit leaders are not typically care-giving professionals, but volunteers. They may not have training in or a deep understanding of your child's particular needs. Visit different units to see which would best suit your child.

Note the BSA has accepted girls and young women in some programs for 45 years and now supports female membership in all of them.

### ***How can I locate a unit for them to join?***

Do not hesitate to [contact us](#) for assistance in finding an appropriate unit. You can also go to <https://beascout.scouting.org/> and enter your zip code to search for [Cub Scout](#) dens (grades K-5), [Scouts BSA](#) (previously Boy Scout) troops (grades 6-12), or [Venturing](#) crews (age 14-21) near your zip code. Click on the icons to get meeting locations and contact information. Investigate our other options by selecting the Programs drop-down on our council homepage.

### ***I think Scouting might be great for my child, but they are past the age ranges you mention. Can they still join?***

BSA policies allow [various accommodations](#) for special needs that [include the age of participation](#). The process is similar to the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of public schools. Explore your options with the leaders of the units you consider.

### ***What involvement is required from a parent for their child to take part?***

Although not mandatory, we strongly recommend parental involvement, especially for youths that require special attention and considerations.

### ***Where can I learn more about special needs and scouting?***

Visit the Denver Area Council Special Needs Website, [SpecialNeedsBSA.org](http://SpecialNeedsBSA.org), and the [Scouting.org](http://Scouting.org) Disabilities Awareness Page, <http://www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx>.

### ***Who can I contact to obtain further assistance?***

Email [AskSpecialNeeds@GoogleGroups.com](mailto:AskSpecialNeeds@GoogleGroups.com) or call 720 266-2144 to contact the Staff Adviser for Special Needs.