

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A LEADER

Special Needs District, DAC

- *AS WITH ANY NEW BOY IN A UNIT, IT IS ADVISABLE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PARENTS. THIS WILL SET THE PARAMETERS FOR WHAT EACH SIDE CAN EXPECT.*
- *PARENTS CAN EXPECT THAT SCOUT LEADERS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO HELP THEIR CHILD DEVELOP INTO YOUNG MEN WITH STRONG MORAL CHARACTER AND LIFE SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE THEM WELL.*
- *PARENTS SHOULD EXPLAIN DISABILITIES OR CHALLENGES TO THE ADULT LEADER. IT SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE PARENTS THAT THE PARAMOUNT REASON TO HAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE IS NOT TO INVADE THE PRIVACY OF AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT TO KEEP ALL PARTICIPANTS IN A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.*
- *IT WOULD BE FURTHER BENEFICIAL TO UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR CHILD BEST LEARNS A NEW SKILL OR TASK, HOW TO PRAISE AND REWARD THEM, AND WHAT PARAMETERS ARE SET FOR THE CHILD AT HOME.*
- *SCOUTERS SHOULD LISTEN FOR "TELLS" THAT THE PARENT IS EMBARRASSED, IN DENIAL OR HAS SOME OTHER REASON FOR NOT EXPLAINING A DISABILITY. WORDS SUCH AS "JOHNNY SOMETIMES CANNOT SIT STILL" OR "JOE HAS TO BE TOLD SEVERAL TIMES TO DO SOMETHING," OR "MY SON GETS VERY DISTRACTED WHEN THERE IS TOO MUCH GOING ON." ARE ALL HINTS THAT THERE MIGHT BE A CHALLENGE.*
- *AS A SCOUTER, A CALL TO THE TEACHER MIGHT BE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE BEST METHOD TO GIVE INSTRUCTION AND TEACH A PARTICULAR CHILD (Parents permission required here).*
- *AS A SCOUTER, THERE ARE MANY RESOURCES, BOTH LOCALLY AND WEB BASED THAT CAN BE OBTAINED.*

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- *LET THE PARENTS KNOW THE LIMITS OF YOUR UNIT. THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IS NOT MANDATED BY THE ADA OR IDEA. WE TRY TO REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE, BUT THE MAJORITY OF THE LEADERS ARE VOLUNTEERS, NOT PROFESSIONALS IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS WORLD.*
- *IT IS AN UNREASONABLE EXPECTATION ON THE PART OF A PARENT THAT A CHILD WILL BE DROPPED OFF AT THE DOOR OR CAMPSITE WHILE THE PARENT DISAPPEARS. ACTIVE PARENT PARTICIPATION IS KEY.*
- *BE CONSISTENT! DO NOT EXPECT A PARENT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD TO ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP.*
- *ENCOURAGE A SENIOR YOUTH MEMBER OF THE TROOP TO BE A PERSONAL MENTOR TO A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD, OR FIND A TEAM OF ADULTS THAT CAN ASSIST THE PARENT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD TO PROVIDE DIRECTION AT A MEETING OR EVENT.*
- *TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT WITH THE TROOP COMMITTEE AND THE PARENT. LOOK TO SPECIAL NEEDS DISTRICT PERSONNEL TO HELP PROVIDE RESOURCE, ARRANGE FOR MEDIATION OR CONDUCT AWARENESS SEMINARS TO BRING ANY CONFLICT TO A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION.*
- *SPECIAL NEEDS PERSONNEL ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO MEET WITH, OR TALK TO LEADERS WHEN NEEDED. Also, A PROFESSIONAL SCOUTER CAN BE BROUGHT IN FOR NEEDS BEYOND A TROOPS OR DISTRICTS ABILITIES. PLEASE USE YOUR NEWLY ACQUIRED AWARENESS SKILLS TO MAKE GOOD AND SOUND JUDGEMENTS.*

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