

# Pack 356 – Holly Springs, NC

Occoneechee Council



## Working With Scouts With disAbilities

"Making a Difference in the Life of a Scout"

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Overview.....	3
A few words from our Cubmaster.....	3
BSA Policy.....	4
Membership Policy for Youth with Special Needs.....	4
Membership Rules.....	4
Advancement for Youth Members with Special Needs.....	5
Pack 356 Policy.....	6
Fully compliant with National BSA Policy.....	6
Temporary versus Permanent handicaps.....	6
Disclaimer for unforeseen omissions.....	6
Recognition of Needs.....	6
Events and Accommodations.....	7
Handicap Considerations.....	7
Scouting for the Hearing Impaired: .....	7
Scouting for the Blind and Visually Impaired: .....	8
Scouting for Youth With Physical Disabilities: .....	9
Wheel chair bound.....	10
Other Handicaps.....	10
Training Aids Available.....	10
More Information.....	11
Contact List.....	11
Glossary.....	12

This document was drafted on January 10, 2005 for the leadership and parents of Pack 356 of Holly Springs, NC. Any additions or changes to this document should be sent to Kirk Rice (919-557-7505).

## Overview

---



The Boy Scouts of America encourages youth with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities to become fully participating members in the Scouting movement.

Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has had fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Dr. James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive, was himself disabled. 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 *Boy Scout Handbook* has had Braille editions for many years; merit badge pamphlets have been recorded on cassette tapes for blind Scouts; and closed-caption training videos have been produced. In 1965, registration of over-age Scouts who are mentally retarded became possible.

Today, approximately 100,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers with disabilities are registered with the Boy Scouts of America in more than 4,000 units chartered to community organizations.

Pack 356 is committed to programs for all Scouts, Scouters and parents who are involved in or have an interest in providing a Scouting opportunity for youth with disabilities.

### *A few words from our Cubmaster*

Bill Piazza is the Cubmaster of Pack 356. He is committed to the growth and development of young men through scouting. The following are a few words from Bill on his position in regard to scouting and disabilities:

“We are all individuals - no two of us are alike. We all have special talents and abilities that contribute to our 'uniqueness'. We also all have disabilities - things that we can't do as well as others. Our disabilities might be simple things such as requiring glasses to see clearly or not being able to run as fast as someone else. But sometimes our disabilities are more pronounced and really impact the way that we experience life.

A Cub Scout with a severe disability wants to go camping, race Pinewood Derby cars, tie knots, and earn advancement just like all the other scouts. By reading this Handbook you'll be in a much better position to help him achieve that goal. Thank you for all you do for Scouting and a special thank you for going the extra mile with your disabled scouts.”

# BSA Policy

---

## Membership Policy for Youth with Special Needs

The Boy Scouts of America has a strong policy of inclusion and fairness for boys with disabilities. This is outlined in Article IX of their national charter, stated below:

CLAUSE 19 of ARTICLE XI, SECTION 3, of THE RULES & REGULATIONS of THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA reads:

*Clause 19.* Mentally Retarded or Severely Physically Handicapped Youth Members. In the discretion of the Executive Board, and under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe upon consultation with appropriate medical authorities, registration of boys who are either mentally retarded or severely physically handicapped, including the blind, deaf, and emotionally disturbed, over age 11 as Cub Scouts, and registration of young adults who are either mentally retarded or severely physically handicapped, including blind, deaf, and emotionally disturbed, and the participation of each in the respective advancement programs while registered, is authorized.

## Membership Rules

The chartered organizations sponsoring Scouting determine, with approval from appropriate medical authorities, whether a youth member is qualified to register (based on the above definitions) beyond the normal registration age. The Cubmaster's signature on the Cub Scout application or on the unit's charter renewal application certifies the approval of the chartered organization for the person to register. The local council must approve these registrations on an individual basis.

The medical condition of all candidates for membership beyond the normal registration age must be certified by a physician licensed to practice medicine, or an evaluation statement must be certified by an educational administrator. This is recorded on the Personal Health and Medical Record Form. These forms can be obtained from the Cubmaster or the Council office. Any corrective measures, restrictions, limitations, or abnormalities must be noted. In the case of mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed candidates applying for membership, a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist must certify their condition. Current health, medical, or certification records of all youth members beyond the normal registration age who have disabilities are to be retained in the unit file at the council service center.

## Advancement for Youth Members with Special Needs

The following are the guidelines for membership and advancement in Scouting for persons having disabilities or other special needs. The American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides the following definition of an individual with a disability:

"An individual is considered to have a 'disability' if he has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g., . . . seeing hearing, speaking, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, learning, caring for oneself, and working), has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

"An individual with epilepsy, paralysis, HIV infection, AIDS, a substantial hearing or visual impairment, mental retardation, or a specific learning disability, is covered, but an individual with a minor, non-chronic condition of short duration, such as a sprain, broken limb, or the flu would not be covered by the ADA.

"The ADA definition protects individuals with a record of a disability and would cover, for example, a person who has recovered from cancer or mental illness.

"And the ADA protects individuals who are regarded as having a substantially limiting impairment, even though they may not have such an impairment. For example . . . a qualified individual with a severe facial disfigurement is protected from being denied employment because an employer feared the 'negative reactions' of customers or coworkers."

The US Department of Education identifies a severely handicapped child as one who, because of the intensity of his physical, mental, or emotional problems, or a combination of such problems, needs education, social, psychological, and medical services beyond those that have been offered by traditional regular and special educational programs. This is required in order to maximize his full potential for useful and meaningful participation in society and for self-fulfillment. Such children include those classified as seriously emotionally disturbed or profoundly and severely mentally retarded, and those with two or more serious handicapping conditions, such as the mentally retarded blind, and the cerebral-palsied deaf.

# Pack 356 Policy

---

## Fully compliant with National BSA Policy

The policies of Pack 356 are in complete compliance with National, Council and District policies on this issue. As a Chartered member in good standing with the Council and District, Pack 356 strives to uphold the spirit of inclusion and fairness for all scouts. If any programs or practices come into conflict with BSA policy, they will not be considered valid programs within the Pack.

## Temporary versus Permanent handicaps

The Pack differentiates between temporary and permanent handicaps. While special accommodations can be made in programs for permanent handicaps, Programs may, or may not be changed for a temporary handicap (i.e., broken arm, small open wound, cold or flu).

## Disclaimer for unforeseen omissions

As this Pack policy is trying to accommodate as many issues as possible, some items may not be included. This does not mean any items were disregarded. If there are specific items that need to be addressed by the Pack, please discuss this with the Cubmaster.

# Recognition of Needs

---

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with disabilities is that they want most to participate like other youth and Scouting gives them that opportunity. Thus, much of the program for Scouts with disabilities is directed at:

- (1) Helping unit leaders develop an awareness of disabled people among youth without disabilities, and
- (2) Encouraging the inclusion of Scouts with disabilities in Cub Scout packs.

There are many units, however, composed of members with identical disabilities such as an all-blind Boy Scout troop or an all-deaf Cub Scout pack but these disabled members are encouraged to participate in Scouting activities at the district, council, area, regional, and national levels along with other Scouts. Many of these special Scouting units are located in special schools or centers that make the Scouting program part of their curriculum.

Many of the approximately 320 BSA local councils have established their own advisory committees for Scouts with disabilities. These committees develop and coordinate an effective Scouting program for youth with disabilities, using all available community resources. Local councils also are encouraged to provide

accessibility in their camps by removing physical barriers so that Scouts with disabilities can participate in summer and resident camp experiences. Some local councils also have professional staff members responsible for the program for members with disabilities.

## Events and Accommodations

---

Pack 356 has numerous events scheduled throughout the year. For a complete listing of these events visit the Pack website at <http://www.pack356.org/> .

Activities to consider include:

- Den and Pack meetings
- Banquet
- Pinewood Derby
- Family campouts
- Scouting for Food
- The Big Trip
- Scout Sunday

Each of these events is planned for all scouts, and special accommodations can be made if discussed in advance with the Pack leadership.

## Handicap Considerations

---

Handicaps to be considered by Pack 356 include, but are not limited to the following categories:

### Scouting for the Hearing Impaired:

The Pack frequently provides “signers” for Pack meetings to enable communication to hearing impaired scouts or their parents. While this is not a standard practice for all meetings, accommodations can be made with proper notice to leadership.

Opportunities for the hearing-impaired scout are not limited to only joining a unit of hearing boys. Training and suggestions are offered to Pack leadership on the conduct of Den and Pack meetings, special activities and the outdoor program.

The use of visual aids can be incorporated into meetings to assist those with hearing limitations. For example, during the Pinewood Derby Race event all results are shown on projected screens as well as being announced.

Audio public address systems are also used by the Pack at all large gatherings to provide loud, clear sound that is easier to understand than low muffled speech.

Leaders are also briefed on how to use relays and other publicly accessible equipment for placing phone calls to scouts and their families. This does not require the scout leaders to have any special equipment. For more information on this, please contact the Cubmaster.

Leaders in the Pack are encouraged to carry small notebooks and pens, so that written communication can be provided when other methods are ineffective.

Signing is a language for which Scouts and Scouters can earn an interpreter strip.

BSA National policy grants accommodations by the unit for advancement in the following statement:

Article XI, Section 3, Clause 19 of the BSA Rules and regulations reads, in part: ...under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed upon consultation with appropriate medical authorities, registration of boys who are either mentally retarded or severely physically handicapped...as Cub Scouts..., and the participation of each in the respective advancement programs while registered, is authorized.

### Scouting for the Blind and Visually Impaired:

The question that every blind Scout and/or his leader should ask is not "Can I do this activity?" but rather, "HOW can I do this activity?" Remove the word blind, and the question applies to all of us.

The first piece of sage advice is to discard old notions. Vision is so much a part of most lives that we forget how much we learn, though that knowledge is incomplete, without integrating the other senses. Touch, taste, smell, and hearing help compensate for what the sighted person takes for granted or suppresses below some threshold. A light outdoor breeze, fully appreciated, can yield information.

Audio public address systems are also used by the Pack at all large gatherings to provide loud, clear sound that is easier to understand than low muffled speech. This may help when visual aids are difficult to see.

Scouting manuals are available in Braille, large print, and on tape. Additionally, speech synthesis can convey the meanings of these individual pixels. There are also Braille compasses and watches and other tactile training aids. Unit leaders will work to understand the leadership demands in mixed units and the careful balance necessary so that neither leaders nor Scouts do too much for the boy, which may inhibit his learning.

Blindness is not an impediment to enjoying the fruits of Scouting. Tips for pursuing everyday Scouting are abundant: from pitching tents to knot tying, tactile learning of nature in the outdoors and in controlled situations such as museums, outdoor cookery from the use of a knife, ax, or saw, through the securing of fuel and building a fire, to the preparation of the meal, and, the use of maps and development of compass skills.

### Scouting for Youth With Physical Disabilities:

Scouting is for all youth; some just accomplish things differently. One Scoutmaster wrote: "The big, staggering fact is that it doesn't require (skill or patience). The kids are so normal, it's almost funny."

Why is Scouting good for youth with disabilities? Well, they have needs that Scouting can help fulfill and it provides others with the opportunity to learn from their attitudes. Scouting provides physical benefits and teaches all of us "to recognize a crippling condition as normal and in the nature of things."

Pack 356 addresses the roles of the parents; the physician; the youth; and teachers and advocates. Perceived limitations may tell us more about us than the youth. The Occoneechee council addresses other issues in leader training sessions available to the unit.

Many of the tips on running a program and gaining help from parents and others can be applied to a mainstream unit. Some individuals may find it better to look for a unit entirely composed of individuals with physical handicaps, as facilities and leadership may be better equipped to deal with the youth than mainstream units. Pack 356 leadership can assist parents in finding this type of unit if it is in the best interest of the scout.

There are a variety of disabling conditions that can affect the potential scout: Cerebral Palsy; Muscular Dystrophy; Muscular Atrophy; Spina Bifida; Heart Defects; Limb Deformities; Epilepsy; Brain Damage; Down's Syndrome; and Diabetes are some of these that may require special consideration from the Pack and its leaders.

Guidelines for membership and advancement provide an explanation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and how alternative paths can be developed. A checklist of abilities and limitations is provided and can be completed by parents during the pre-joining conference.

BSA National policy grants accommodations by the unit for advancement in the following statement:

Article XI, Section 3, Clause 19 of the BSA Rules and regulations reads, in part: ...under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed upon consultation with

appropriate medical authorities, registration of boys who are either mentally retarded or severely physically handicapped...as Cub Scouts..., and the participation of each in the respective advancement programs while registered, is authorized.

### Wheel chair bound

Access to all facilities and meeting places is wheelchair friendly. Where special events limit the access of wheelchairs, special advance notice should be provided to allow the unit to accommodate for this.

Some outings may be arranged with special handicapped facilities (such as campgrounds with paved access). Many State Parks have built special facilities for the physically handicapped, which can be used by the Pack for outings. Leaders will make every effort to provide a safe and accessible program for all boys.

### Other Handicaps

Pack 356 recognizes that there are numerous potential handicaps that can afflict boys. While the pack cannot draft a program for every individual situation, it is committed to complete compliance with all National, Council and District policies on this issue. As a Chartered member in good standing of the Council and District, Pack 356 strives to uphold the spirit of inclusion and fairness for all scouts.

## Training Aids Available

---

The Boy Scouts of America offers many training aids to leadership to help them deal with handicapped issues. Some of these items available to Cub Scout packs are:

- **Cub Leader Book: No 33221B Chapter 17**
- **Closed-captioned Cub Scout Fast Start:** No. AV-01V022
- **Closed-captioned Cub Scout Leader Specific Training:** No. AV-01V013
- **Closed-captioned A Time to Tell:** No. AV-09V004
- **AUDIO recordings of the Cub Scout Leader, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos handbooks:**
  - [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#), Library of Congress, 800-424-9100
  - [Recording For The Blind & Dyslexic](#), New Jersey 800-803-7201
- **BRILLE printings of the Parent's Guide, Tiger Cub Activity Book, Wolf Cub Scout Book, Bear Cub Scout Book, and Webelos Scout Book:**

- The Lighthouse of Houston, Texas, 713-527-9561
- [National Braille Association](#), 716-427-8260
- [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#), Library of Congress, 800-424-9100
- **LARGE PRINT of the Parent's Guide, Tiger Cub Activity Book, Wolf Cub Scout Book, Bear Cub Scout Book, and Webelos Scout Book:**
- [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#), Library of Congress, 800-424-9100

## More Information

Additional information and lists of literature and other aids are available from the Boy Scout Division, Cub Scout Division, and Council Services Division at the Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

## Contact List

---

For more information on how Pack 356 can assist in the inclusion and fairness of scouting for all boys, feel free to contact:

Cubmaster.....	Bill Piazza.....	919-557-1490
Assistant Cubmaster.....	Mark Aiken.....	919-
Pack Committee Chairman.....	Dee Fait.....	919-577-0387
Special Needs Policy Advisor.....	Kirk Rice.....	919-557-7505
Charter Organization Pastor.....	Ross Carter.....	919-303-3720

## Glossary

---

**Advancement** – Advancement refers to the progression in rank through the scouting program. Advancement may include other awards such as achievement belt loops, religious medals, or conservation awards.

**Blind** – This term refers to individuals that are visually impaired.

**Council** – This is the chartered administrative body of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Emotionally Disturbed** – This term refers to the mentally handicapped individuals with disorders that disrupt day-to-day normal activity or interaction with others.

**Handicapped** – This term refers to an individual that has some type of condition, either physical or mental, that limits their ability to participate in day-to-day normal activity or interaction with others.

**Leader** – This term refers to an individual in a registered leadership position with the Boy Scouts of America.

**Pack** – This is the local unit of scouts and leaders chartered through the Boy Scouts of America.

**Scout** – This is an individual boy registered in the Scouting program.

**Scouter** - This term refers to an adult leader registered in the Scouting program.

**Scouting** – This is a general term that includes all elements of the Boy Scouts of America Program.

**Training Aid** – This is a manual, tool, or other item used to assist in the training of Scouts or Scouters.