



Frequently Asked Questions about Special Needs and Scouting

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

Here are answers to some questions that parents often ask about special needs and programs offered by the Denver Area Council. For best results please refer to the online version of this document. It contains live links to online resources and can be found at:

<http://www.specialneedsbsa.org/document/faq/174381>.

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

The core values of Scouting include being helpful, friendly and courteous and we have a long history of accommodating special needs. The unit leaders are volunteers however. They may not have training in or deep understanding of your child's particular needs. Visit different units to see which would best fit your child's needs.

Note the BSA has had programs that accept girls/young women for 45 years. Most of our programs already welcome females and all will be ready to as of February 2019.

How can I locate a unit for them to join?

Go to <https://beascout.scouting.org/> and enter your zip code to search for [Cub Scout](#) dens (grades K-5), [Scouts BSA](#) (AKA 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.

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 are considering.

What involvement is required from a parent in order for their child to participate?

Parental participation is not required but is highly recommended, especially for youths that require special attention and considerations.

Should my child consider joining a segregated special needs unit?

We generally encourage “mainstreaming” but offer some units that concentrate on special needs. These cater for youths that need a special unit or feel more comfortable in one, or to ease transition. See [Pack 237](#), [Pack 1777](#) and [Troop 5280](#).

Where can I learn more about special needs and scouting?

Visit Denver Area Council’s [Special Needs Website](#) and the Boy Scouts of America’s [Disabilities Awareness](#) page.

Who can I contact to obtain further assistance?

Email AskSpecialNeeds@GoogleGroups.com or call 303 455.5522 and request the Staff Adviser for Special Needs.

