

IDEAS FOR TESTING SPECIAL NEEDS SCOUTS.

Kingsford Smith Troop

From our Founder



As early as 1919 in “Aids to Scoutmastership”, he wrote of “the numbers of crippled, deaf and dumb, and blind boys who were gaining greater health, happiness and hope than they ever had before”. He recognised that some adaptations were needed and encouraged the use of special, or alternative tests, while at the same time believing that over-protection and paternalism should be avoided:

“The wonderful thing about such boys is their cheeriness and their eagerness to do as much in Scouting as they possibly can. They do not want more special tests and treatment than is absolutely necessary”. **BADEN POWELL**

Existing Material for Special Needs Scouts 1 of 2.

- Information and Organisation Manual 2007
- Working with Youth and Disabilities Course, (NSW Branch).
- Disabilities Seminar, (NSW Branch 2 Days) –Contact Branch Commissioner for Special Needs. Currently Jan Steinfurth.
- Disability and Impairment Information Sheets.

Available from:

<https://www.vicscouts.asn.au/Disabilities/Docs/DisabilityBook.pdf>

Existing Material for Special Needs Scouts 2 of 2.

- Book – Special Needs Awareness from NZ. – Available through Snowgum mail order.
- Book – Guidelines on Scouting for People with Disabilities – Available from:
http://www.scout.org/en/about_scouting/strategy/strategic_priorities/re

Current Policy on Badge Work. 1 of 2

- INFORMATION HANDBOOK 2007
- 2.20.3 Special Needs Scouting
- C. Youth members in these groups are expected to pass tests in the normal way, that is, by achieving their personal best, except where prevented from doing so by their disability, in which case they may, with the approval of the District Commissioner, take the alternative tests approved by State Commissioner (Special Needs).
- What does this mean in Practical Terms?

Current Policy on Badge Work. 2 of 2

- A Scout with a permanent physical or mental disability may select an alternate merit badge in lieu of a required merit badge if the disability prohibits the Scout from completing the necessary requirements of a particular merit badge.

Short History of Special Needs Scouting in Australia.

- 1930 First Troop for Boys formed at the Austin Hospital.
- 1939 – War. Hospitalized Children moved to country areas. Disabled Scouting was accelerated due to number and availability of young people. Feeling of “These poor little children”. Integration unknown.
- 1970 6th Camberwell North, (a disabled group) were allowed to attend the Sydney Jamboree. The first disabled scout group to do so.
- 1981 International Year of the Disabled Person. Nippon Scouts invite scouts to Japan to highlight the Agoonoree they hold every 4 years. New South Wales has held 15 Agoonoree’s so far.
- 1990 The Federal Discrimination Act. It became an offence to refuse membership to scouts on the grounds of a disability.
- Currently “Special Needs” Groups are declining in numbers as there is a shift to Integrate as many Special Needs scouts as possible into Main Stream Troops.
- The Future – Special Needs groups are being reformed as an additional Pack/Troop within existing Cub Packs/Scout Troops.

History from www.vicscouts.asn.au/Disabilities/history.html

THE PROMISE – Our Guide.

On my honour

I promise that I will do my best.

To do my duty to my God, and

To the Queen of Australia

To help other people, and To live by the Scout Law.

Things to be Considered

- Type of Problem
- Severity of Problem
- Wishes of the Troop
- Wishes of the Person
- Wishes of the Parents
- Remember we are trying to push the scout just a little beyond what they think they can do, or what the parents think they can do.

AIM and SCOPE of this Presentation.

- I have selected 1 Badge from the Scout Award Scheme.
- I intend to show some different options for scouts with special needs so that they can complete this award.
- I hope it will inspire you to try your own different approach to your scouts.
- Remember each scout will be different in ability and therefore a “one size fits all” approach will not work.



Pioneer Citizenship

- The Citizenship Target is the other obligatory badge of the Target Scheme. The badge allows you, as a Scout to fulfill the Aim of the Scout Association.
- To achieve the Pioneer Citizenship Target the Scout must complete all of the requirements for No's. 1 to 4, together with any three of the remaining five parts.

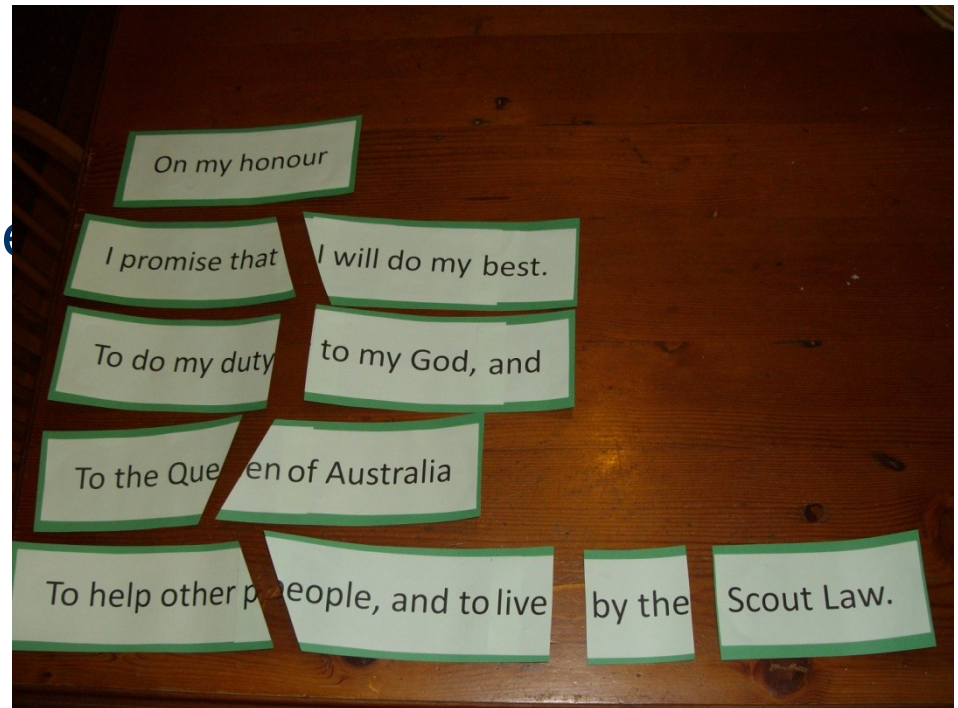


1. Ethics - Mandatory

- a) Promise and Law
 - i. Know and understand the Scout Promise and Law
 - ii. Show your Scout Leader that you are doing your best to keep your Scout Promise and you are living by the Scout Law.
- b) Spiritual awareness
 - i. Make up a prayer or similar item for use at a Scout meeting/activity.

1a. Promise and Law

- Scouts who cannot read, may be able to remember, so make a recording of the Promise and Law for them to listen to.
- Scouts who cannot remember can use a puzzle to put together the Promise and Law.



1b. Spiritual Awareness

- A scout who cannot create a prayer or read can find one in a book for someone else to read for them.
- They may also be able to draw a picture or create a diorama of a religious scene.





2. First aid - Mandatory

a) Know the first aid for Pioneer Emergencies

OR

a) Undertake the following:

- i. Learn the correct method to obtain a response from an injured person
- ii. Learn how to find and check for circulation
- iii. Learn how and when to place a patient in the recovery position
- iv. Learn and demonstrate the treatments for snake and spider bites
- v. Learn three causes of headache or fever
- vi. Learn the correct method for the management of wounds
- vii. Learn the principles of foot care, e.g. prevention and treatment of blisters

2. First Aid

- Even a blind person can feel for injuries, talk to and reassure a patient.
- They can also check a patient for response and use a phone to call for help.
- Basic cleaning and dressing of wounds can be done by anyone.
- Role play the causes of a Headache for scouts who cannot talk or draw.
- Try putting a patient in the Recovery Position with the lights out.





3. Leadership - Mandatory

- Discuss with your Patrol Leader three different examples of times when your Patrol has worked as a team. Explain to your Patrol Leader how you believe this has helped your Patrol.

3. Leadership

- While Special needs Scouts may not be able to communicate in a normal way they can communicate, if we take the time to understand their method of communication.
- What may be taken as wild gestures could be expressing great joy. So, the PL could suggest times, or Role Play when the Patrol worked as a team and ask how the scout felt about that time. The PL could also suggest how this helped the Patrol.
- When the scout expresses joy you have his / her answer.

4. Good turn - Mandatory



- While earning this badge as a Scout participate in some form of community service, which must be over a minimum of two hours, preferably outside the Scout movement.

4. Good turn

- Almost all schools do fundraising for good causes. Find out if the scout has participated in an activity like this. Remember the Guide – to do their best.





5. Heritage - Optional

- a) Know the meaning of three local place names and discuss these with your Patrol Leader.

OR

- a) Name two cultures within your community that are different from your own and identify two ways in which each differs from your own. Discuss your findings with your Patrol Leader.

5. Heritage

- A. The scout could bring in a book of Aboriginal Place Names and their meanings.
- OR
- B. They could bring in pictures of different cultures, food from those cultures, clothing or other items from the cultures they wish to highlight.



6. Activity - Optional

- a) With your Patrol identify the services (e.g. health, education, leisure, and social) that are available in your local area for young people of Scout age. These may be provided by your local government and/or other service providers. Present your findings to the Troop.

OR

- a) With your Patrol or other Scouts take part in a tour of your community, designed to help a visitor see and learn about it.

6. Activity

- The Troop or Patrol could plan a tour of the local area and point out the sites. Our Special Needs Scouts can go along.
- Remember this is NOT an Academic exercise. Any report could be done verbally.



7. Community - Optional

- With members of your Patrol visit an organisation that serves your local community. Find out what service it provides and how it is organised. Such an organisation could be the local seat of government, community service agency, local TV or radio station, newspaper, urban or rural fire service, ambulance station, police station, emergency services, forestry, sewerage authority etc.

7. Community

- This is easy for Special Needs Scouts. It can be done as part of a Troop visit, or as part of a Patrol Activity. The main requirement is to attend the activity.
- Warning – be sure of appropriate access if necessary.





8. Environment - Optional

- a) Complete one third of a project for the Landcare Badge.
- b) OR
- c) Discuss with your family five ways in which they could be more environmentally friendly. Discuss these with your Patrol.

8. Environment

- A possible way to complete this part of the badge would be for the scout to role play saving the environment planting trees, picking up rubbish etc.
- Another possibility would be to participate in some organised Environmental Activity.





9. Fitness - Optional

- Show an understanding of a healthy lifestyle including the need for a proper diet, proper amount of sleep and the value of exercise.

9. Fitness

- Scouts can bring in samples of healthy foods, or even a meal to show the type of food we should eat.
- They can do an exercise program one night so the troop can discuss the need for exercise.



Conclusion

- Special Needs Scouts can achieve their best if we take the time to understand their needs.
- A “one size fits all” approach is not appropriate for these scouts.
- We need to understand that there may be some activities or work that they will not be able to do. Therefore, some modification may be necessary and it should be appropriate to the scout.
- All parties Leaders, The Troop, Parents and if appropriate the Scout need to understand what is happening, and why.

The Ultimate Aim for our Special Needs Scouts at Pioneer Level.



Other Possible Resources

- Vision Australia have a Lending Library for Braille and Audio Books – The Jungle Book is available in both forms. www.visway.org.au
- Booktopia also have The Jungle Book in audio format, the cost is approximately \$24.95. www.booktopia.com.au
- Use the search function on each site using "Jungle Book" as the search criteria