

# AWARE AND CARE

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



## SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



Everyone has differences, and everyone faces challenges. That's what makes us human. In this Adventure, you'll learn about the challenges other people face by looking at the world through their eyes. The more you understand, the more helpful you can be – and the more you can show your friends how to be nice to everyone, including people who are different. After all, we are all different in one way or another.

### REQUIREMENTS

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do an activity that shows the challenges of being visually impaired. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do an activity that shows the challenges of being hearing impaired. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Explore barriers to access. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Meet someone who has a disability or someone who works with people with disabilities about what obstacles they must overcome and how they do it. \_\_\_\_\_



- Elective Adventure
- Scan for this Adventure page

## REQUIREMENT 1

**Do an activity that shows the challenges of being visually impaired.**

If you are visually impaired, you may complete this requirement by sharing with your den or den leader some ways you overcome the challenges that come with being visually impaired.

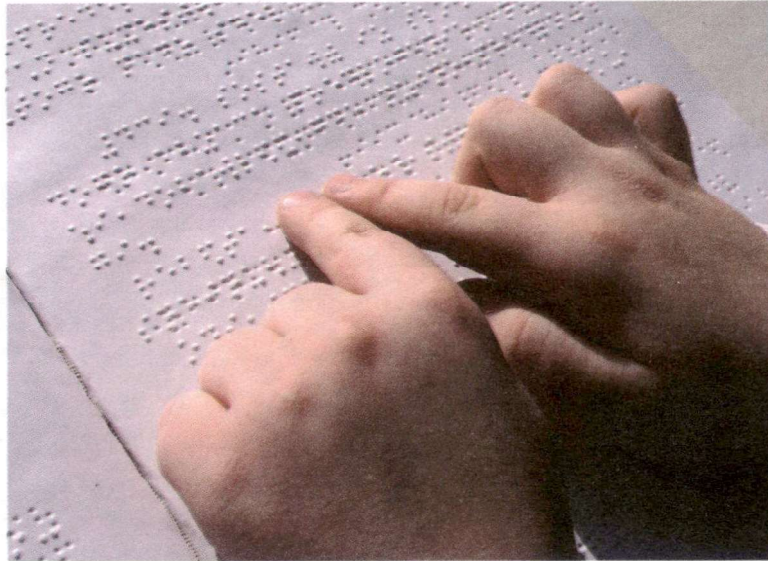
Vision is the ability to see with your eyes. Blindness is a lack of vision. Some people are totally blind, meaning they can't see anything at all. Others have partial blindness. They might see things as vague shadows or not be able to see at all after dark. Some people are born blind; others lose all or part of their vision as they age or due to an illness.

People who are totally blind use their other senses to make up for their lack of vision. For example, when people who are blind cross a street, they can't look and listen for cars like other people can; instead, they can only listen, which means they must listen very carefully. They also can't see the walk signs that sighted people rely on. That's why some communities have beeping or talking walk signs.

Many visually impaired people use service dogs or canes to help them get around. They read books in Braille, which is a system that uses raised dots on the page to stand for letters. They may use voice activation on computers or smart devices that read webpages out loud. They also rely on sighted friends to help them out from time to time, especially in unfamiliar surroundings.







You can simulate what it's like to be visually impaired by covering your eyes and walking around your home. (Have a friend or family member serve as a spotter so you don't hurt yourself.) Try this activity: Walk to your kitchen, fix a snack, sit down at the table, and eat. Were you successful? That's something people who are blind do every day.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.



## REQUIREMENT 2

**Do an activity that shows the challenges of being hearing impaired.**

If you have hearing loss, you may complete this requirement by sharing with your den or den leader some ways you overcome the challenges that come with having hearing loss.

Like visual impairments, there are many degrees of hearing loss. Some people are totally deaf, meaning they can't hear anything. Others have trouble understanding what someone is saying when there is a lot of background noise. Some people are born deaf. Others lose all or part of their hearing as they age or due to an illness. In fact, everyone loses the ability to hear very high-pitched sounds when they get older. As a Webelos Scout, you can hear some sounds that your parents and den leader can't hear at all.

There are many ways to address hearing loss. Hearing aids are a great tool for people who have some hearing. These devices go in or behind the ear and make sounds louder or easier to hear. Some people who are deaf learn to read lips. Others use sign language, which is a language that is "spoken" with the hands.

Sign language uses the shape, placement, and movement of the hands, as well as facial expressions and body movement, to convey meaning. Just as there are many different spoken languages, there are many different sign languages. American



Sign Language is used mostly in the United States and Canada. A good way to experience what it's like to be deaf or hearing impaired is to watch television with the sound turned off (or with the sound turned low and a radio blaring nearby). Watch a favorite show that you've seen before and try to read the lips of the actors. Can you follow the story? What happens when you can't see an actor's lips?

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.



**Scout**



**Oath ("Promise")**



**On**



**my**



**honor**



**I**



**(will) do**



**(my) best**



**To**





(do my) duty



(to) God



(and) my



country



(and) to



obey



(the) Scout



Law;



To



help ("people")



("help") (other) people





at all times ("always"); To (keep)



(myself) physically

strong,



mentally

awake, (and)



morally

straight.

**Note:** Did you notice that some English words are not signed in American Sign Language? American Sign Language is a conceptual language, which means that not every word of spoken English is signed. Some words are also signed in a different order. For example, the phrase "help other people at all times" can be signed as "people, help, always."



### REQUIREMENT 3

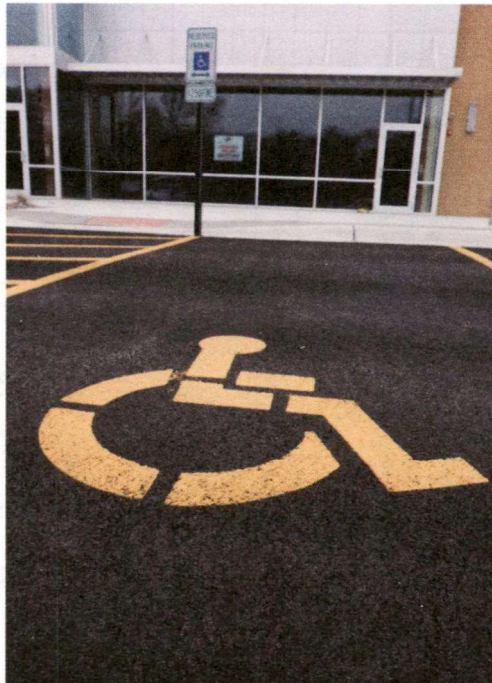
Explore barriers to access.

Mobility impairment means a reduced ability to get around on your legs. Some people are born with a mobility impairment because of conditions like spina bifida. Others lose the ability to walk due to age, illness, or accidents. Someone who breaks a leg and must wear a cast for a few months has a temporary mobility impairment.

Like other disabilities, there are ways to compensate for mobility impairments. Many people use crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs to get around. People who have lost parts of their legs might even have prosthetic replacements that let them run, jump, and play sports.

A big obstacle for many people with mobility impairments is accessibility in homes and businesses. If you used a wheelchair, would you be able to get from the street to your bedroom? Are the doors in your home wide enough for a wheelchair to go through (at least 32 inches wide)?

If you're able to borrow a wheelchair or crutches, you can simulate a mobility impairment by trying to maneuver around your home or school. Or you could immobilize one of



your legs by tying a long stick or splint to it both above and below your knee. See what it's like to walk when you can't bend your leg.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.



Dexterity refers to the ability to use your hands and fingers to do everything from getting dressed to playing a musical instrument to shooting a basketball. Someone who breaks a finger or develops a condition like arthritis may find activities like fastening buttons or tying shoes a challenge.

To see what it's like to have a dexterity impairment, try to get dressed while wearing a pair of thick winter gloves. For an even harder challenge, tape a couple of the glove's fingers together.

With your den or family, reflect on what you learned and how this activity made you feel.



## REQUIREMENT 4

**Meet someone who has a disability or someone who works with people with disabilities about what obstacles they must overcome and how they do it.**

If you have a physical disability or mobility impairment, you may complete this requirement by sharing with your den or den leader some ways you experience and/or overcome challenges you face.



It's one thing to ride in a wheelchair for 10 or 15 minutes. It's another thing entirely to use a wheelchair all day, every day. Talk with someone who has a physical impairment and find out about the challenges they face and how they experience or overcome them.

All sorts of people work with those who have disabilities. Some have disabilities themselves; others just want to make the world a better place for everyone. Learn more about one of these people, what their responsibilities are like, and what they enjoy about their job.





1