

Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Disabilities Awareness is a four-hour merit badge session. Scout should bring a snack and plenty to drink. Please, no red liquids.

What to bring:

- Blue card, pen or pencil
- Appropriate clothing, including closed-toe shoes.
- Snack and water
- Prework

Prework

4. Visit TWO of the following locations, and take notes about the accessibility for people with disabilities. In your notes, give examples of five things that could be done to improve the site and five things about the site that make it friendly to people with disabilities. Discuss your observations with your counselor.
 - a. Your school
 - b. Your place of worship
 - c. Your Scout camping site

One from the list above. The second location will be visited during the session at the nature center.

5. Explain what advocacy is. Do ONE of the following advocacy activities:
 - a. Present a counselor-approved disabilities awareness program to a Cub Scout pack or other group. During your presentation, explain and use person-first language.

- b. Find out about disability awareness education programs in your school or school system, or contact a disability advocacy agency. Volunteer with a program or agency for eight hours.
 - c. Using resources such as disability advocacy agencies, government agencies, the internet (with your parent's permission), and news magazines, learn about myths and misconceptions that influence the general public's understanding of people with disabilities. List 10 myths and misconceptions about people with disabilities, and learn the facts about each myth. Share your list with your counselor, then use it to make a presentation to a Cub Scout pack or other group.
7. Name five professions that provide services to people with disabilities. Pick one that interests you and learn the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss what you learn with your counselor, and tell why this profession interests you.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Email cesia.lopez@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 941-1065.