

# Serving Scouts with DisAbilities

Copperhead Virtual Round Table

May 14, 2020

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# Course Objective

*“1 in 10 children in the USA have a disability or condition that limits their functional skills.” –Centers for Disease Control 2010*

Help leaders understand what it may be like to have various disabilities. Encourage leadership to create a positive and inclusive program for ALL youth in their units.

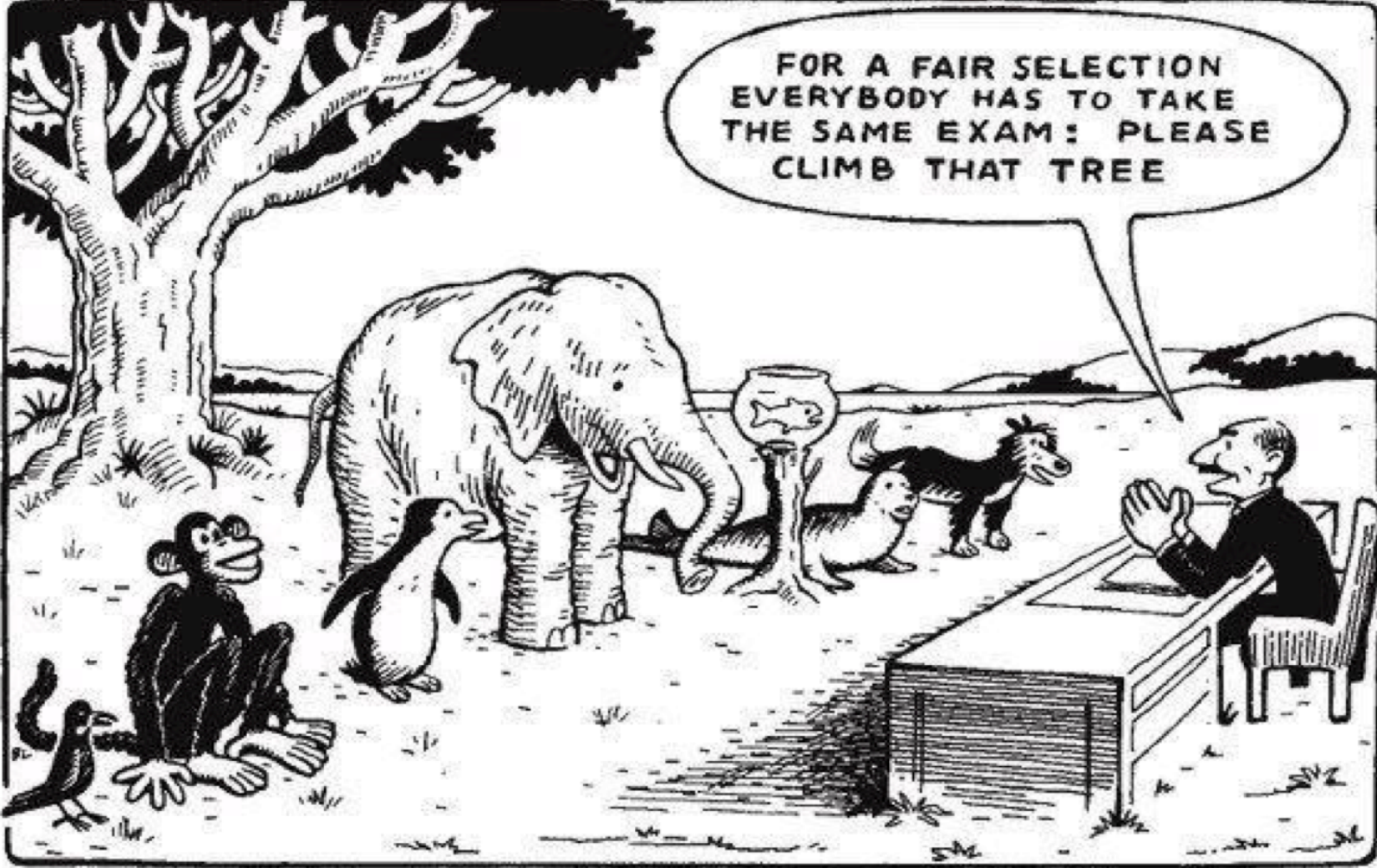
# What is a disability?

A disability is a real and long-term condition that impairs functioning in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical...can affect mobility/dexterity
- Cognitive...can affect mental speed and modes of understanding
- Emotional...can affect mood and stability
- Social...can affect self-perception and delay inclusion

Everybody is a genius.  
But if you judge a fish by  
its ability to climb a tree,  
it will live its whole life  
believing that it is stupid.

- Albert Einstein



# A Scout Needs a Leader...

- With a positive overall outlook
- Who cares about the success of youth
- Who is focused on finding solutions to challenges
- Who models encourages and empowers
- Who sees a person, not a diagnosis

- Of the 53.9 million school-aged children (aged 5 to 17) in the U.S. about 2.8 million (**5.2 %**) were reported to have a disability in 2010. For many of these children, the kinds of disabilities they experience may require special approaches to providing education or other accommodations.

- *(2010 US Census)*

- In 2020 the CDC estimated that **1 in 54** children is diagnosed with Autism.

Boys were more than 4 times as likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

# Have a Joining Conference

- Ask about strengths.
- Ask about parental concerns or anxieties.
- Ask about trigger situations.
- Ask what adaptations work at home.
- Do not ask for the diagnosis.
- If diagnosis is provided, be reassuring.

# Partner with Parents

- Meet regularly with parents.
- Praise successes and encourage.
- Encourage parents to become leaders.
- Suggest parents may need to attend meetings or outings to assist.



# Partner with the Scout

- Communicate respectfully with the Scout.
- Assume the Scout can understand and handle the disability.
- Encourage the Scout to help create solutions.
- Encourage self-advocacy.
- Confidentiality NO gossiping



If you meet one person with autism...

Cub Scout Dennis tells us about his Autism: [\*Video Here\*](#)

# A bit of experience....

- Pair of sunglasses or regular reading glasses smeared with lotion on all areas of the lenses
- A hand mirror that has a stand or a prop for you to lean it on plus a piece of paper and a pen
- Four band aids that fit over the tips of your fingers
- And we will do a little reading...



Accept the Scout as a person and give them the same respect that you expect from them.

This will be much easier to do if you know the Scout, their parents, their background, and likes and dislikes.

# Living the Scout Oath and Law

*Empower your Scouts by your example.....*

**Your Scouts learn by the way you  
walk the walk and talk the talk!**

- “Just Like You!” – *Video*

# Contact info

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SHAC.org website

resources pull down tab

click on special needs