Specific Learning Disability Leader Training

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Training Guide Contents

This training guide is intended to support troop leaders in providing the best Girl Scout experience for girls of all abilities. If you have a scout in your troop or service unit who have a Specific Learning Disability, this training guide will:

- Define Specific Learning Disability
- Explain difficulties your scout might encounter during meetings, outings, and overnight trips.
- Provide a list of strategies, techniques, or equipment that will assist you in providing the best Girl Scout experience for a scout with Specific Learning Disability.
- Provide a list of other resources that might be helpful.

Create a Welcoming Girl Scout Troop

Every scout learns in her own way. By offering flexible teaching methods and focusing on strengths, troop leaders can create an environment where all scouts feel capable, included, and successful.

What is a Specific Learning Disability?

A specific learning disability (SLD) is a condition that affects how a person learns and processes information. It may impact skills such as reading, writing, math, or understanding and using language.

Common types of learning disabilities include dyslexia (reading), dysgraphia (writing), and dyscalculia (math). Scouts with learning disabilities often have average or above-average intelligence but may learn differently and need additional support or different strategies to be successful.

Each scout's strengths and needs are unique, and many thrive when instruction is presented in ways that match how they learn best.





Impacts of Specific Learning Disability

A specific learning disability can affect participation in troop meetings, activities, outings, and overnight trips in a variety of ways.

A scout with a learning disability may:

- Have difficulty reading written instructions or completing written tasks
- Need extra time to process information and complete activities
- Struggle with organization, memory, or following multi-step directions
- Become frustrated or lose confidence when tasks feel challenging
- Prefer hands-on or visual learning rather than written or verbal-only instruction

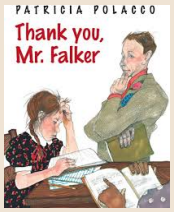
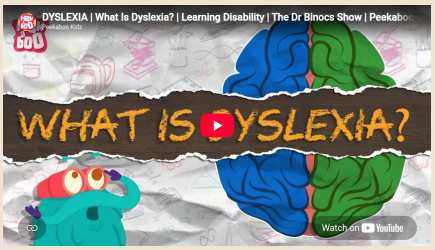
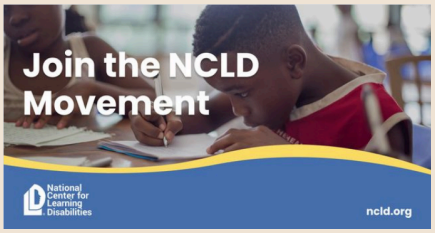
During meetings or badge activities, tasks that involve reading, writing, or sequencing steps may require additional support. With appropriate strategies, scouts with learning disabilities can fully participate and demonstrate their strengths in many ways.

How to Help Mitigate Challenges Realated to Specific Learning Disability

In order to provide a scout with a specific learning disability equal access to being a Girl Scout, here are some helpful strategies:

1. **Communicate with the scout and her family** to understand her learning style, strengths, and supports that are most effective.
2. **Provide directions in multiple ways**, such as verbal instructions, visuals, and demonstrations.
3. **Break tasks into smaller, manageable steps** and check for understanding.
4. **Allow extra time for reading, writing, or completing tasks** when needed.
5. **Offer alternative ways to participate**, such as verbal responses, drawing, or hands-on activities instead of written work.
6. **Use visuals and hands-on materials** to support learning and understanding.
7. **Encourage effort and build confidence**, focusing on strengths and progress rather than mistakes.

Additional Resources for Leading Scouts with Specific Learning Disabilities

Books	Video Links	Websites
Thank You, Mr. Faulker by Patricia Polacco  (Children's book)	 What is Dyslexia? (Children's Resource)	 Outdoor Education Helps the Well-Being of Students with Learning Disabilities (Adult Resource)
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  (Older Children's Book- ages 9+)	 Supporting Kids with Learning Disabilities (Adult resource)	 National Center for Learning Disabilities (Adult Resource)
Very Bad at Math By Hope Larson	 Supporting the Needs of Kids with Learning Disabilities (Adult Resource)	 Complete Guide to Dyslexia (Adult Resource)



Conclusion

The Girl Scout experience should be accessible for girls of all abilities. If you need additional support to help with inclusion, please contact your local service unit or council.



Girl Scouts for ALL Abilities

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