

# Advancement for Scouts With Disabilities NDA 200



Scouts with  
Special Needs

## Expiration Date

This presentation is not to be used after Dec. 31, 2020.

Obtain an updated version at

[www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx)

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# Learning Objectives

- Understand *Guide To Advancement (GTA)*, Section 10.0.0.0
- Familiarity with forms needed
- Experience with scenarios applying GTA Section 10.0.0.0



# Why Scouting for Youth Who Have Disabilities?

- ♣ Scouting can have value for all eligible youth.
- ♣ Youth with disabilities often find challenges in social settings.
- ♣ Scouting teaches skills that help prepare them for life in our society.
- ♣ Scouting provides broader associations.



# Documenting a Disability...

*Required to qualify for alternative requirements or registration beyond the age of eligibility.*

- ♣ Obtain letter from parent describing disability
- ♣ Provide membership application or card
- ♣ Complete BSA health form (parts A and C)
- ♣ Obtain statement from health professional
- ♣ Obtain letter from unit leader
- ♣ Provide other available supporting documentation, such as an “IEP”

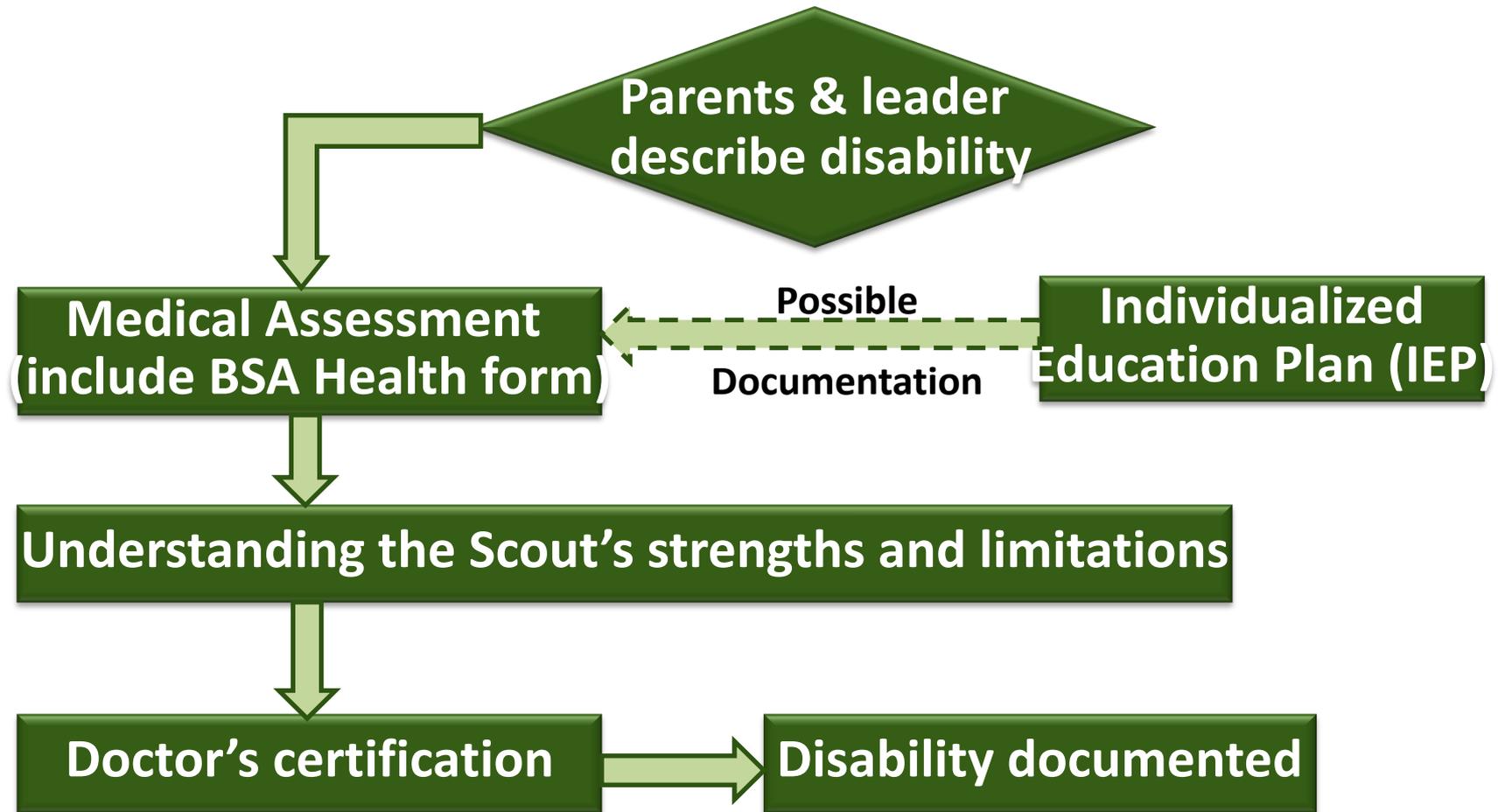
*See Guide to Advancement, 10.1.0.2*



# Documenting Membership

- Youth application or membership card
- If over 18, must complete adult application
  - Use proper “participant” position code (UP, VP, EP)
- Adult application triggers need for YPT and Background Check
  - Can request exemption from YPT

# Process Flow for Documenting a Disability



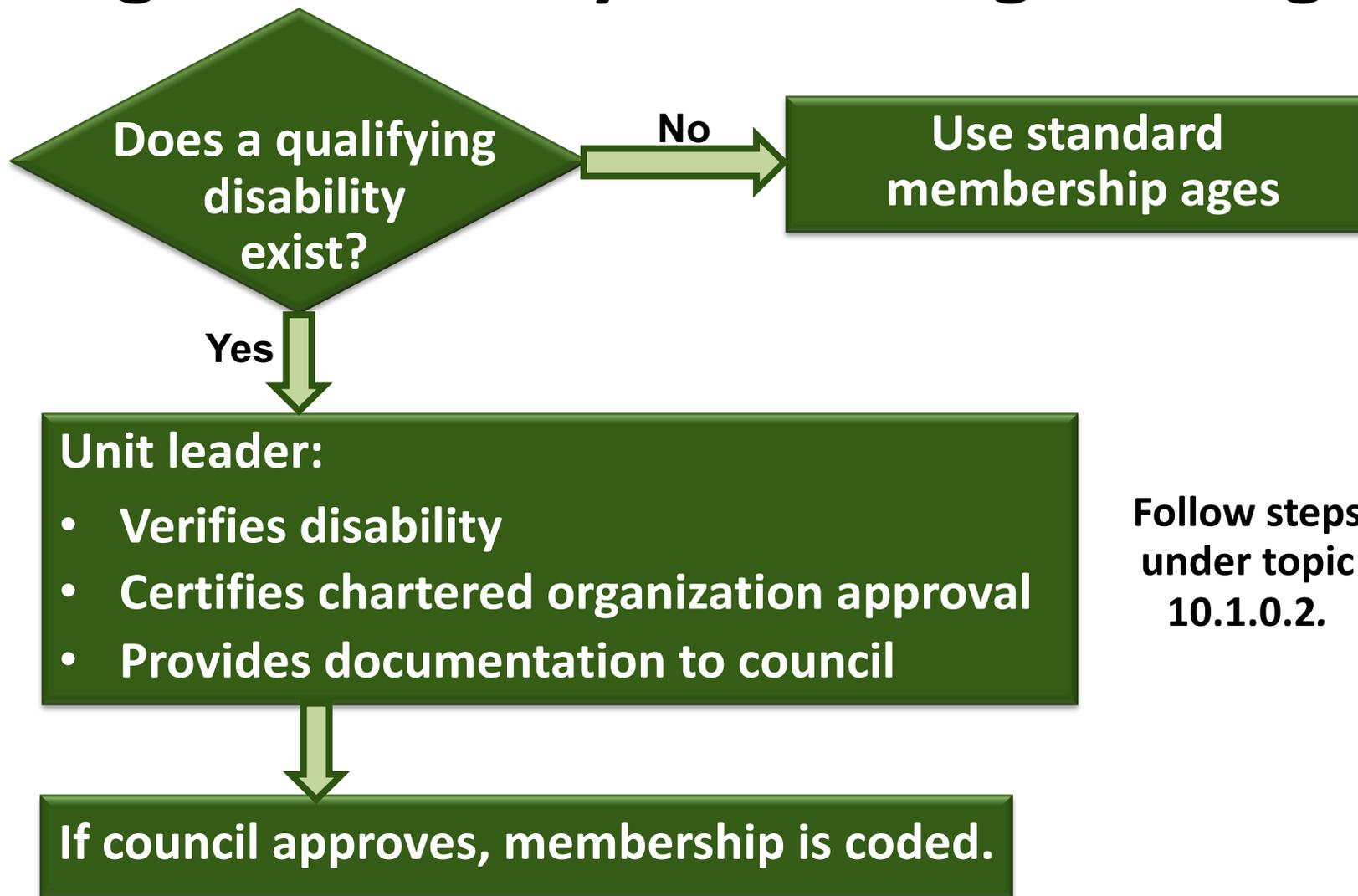
# Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

*Guide to Advancement, Topics 10.1.0.0 & 10.1.0.2*

- ♣ Disability must be documented as permanent and severe
- ♣ Arrangement is permanent; not an extension of time to earn a rank
- ♣ BSA Form No. 512-935
- ♣ Process applies in all BSA programs from Cub Scouting through Venturing and Sea Scouts
- ♣ Council executive board must approve



# Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility



**Follow steps  
under topic  
10.1.0.2.**



# Possible Criteria for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

*Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.1.0.1*

- ♣ Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ♣ Blind or sight-impaired
- ♣ Deaf or hard of hearing
- ♣ Cognitive disability
- ♣ Developmental delay
- ♣ Down Syndrome
- ♣ Emotional or behavioral disorder
- ♣ Physically disabled
- ♣ Traumatic brain injury
- ♣ Multiple coexisting disabilities



# What if a Scout is unable accomplish requirements as written?

*Alternative requirements are available.*

- ♣ To Scouts registered beyond the age of eligibility.
- ♣ To Scouts with a permanent physical or mental disability, or a disability that is expected to last two or more years or beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Alternative requirements procedures are specific to each Scouting program.



# Cub Scout Advancement

*Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.1.0*

## The standard is “Do Your Best.”

- ❖ Cubmasters and pack committees may jointly determine appropriate substitutions for youth unable to attempt a requirement.
- ❖ Parents can assist by providing input on their son’s abilities and challenges.



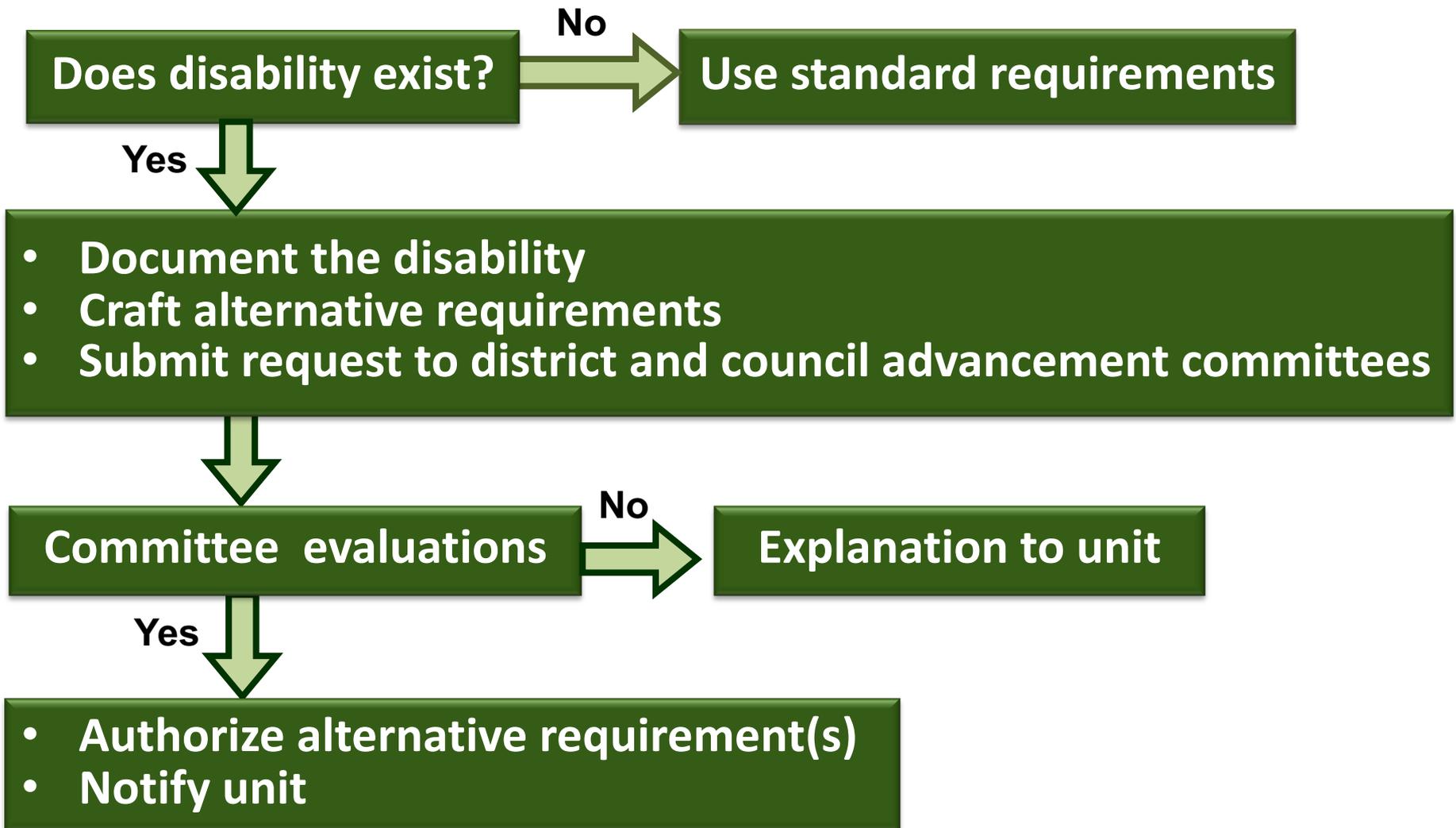
# Scouts BSA Rank Advancement

## *Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.2.0*

- ❖ Rank requirements are to be completed as written, no more and no less.
- ❖ Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class can be modified via a request for approval from the council advancement committee. (*Guide to Advancement, Topics 10.2.2.1 and 10.2.2.2*).
- ❖ Venturers and Sea Scouts working on Scouts BSA advancement, are treated as Scouts BSA members.



# Alternative Rank Requirements



# Alternative Merit Badges

*Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.2.3*

Merit badge requirements ***must not*** be modified, but it is permitted to substitute one entire badge for another.

- ♣ Substitute must be “as challenging.”
- ♣ Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 512-730, is required.
- ♣ All required merit badges achievable by the Scout must be completed before applying.\*



# Boards of Review

*Guide to Advancement, Topic 10.2.2.0*

Some responsible flexibility is allowed if a Scout's disabilities could affect the outcome of a board of review.

- ✦ Inform board of review members ahead of time about the special circumstances.
- ✦ Be sure the unit leader is able to attend.
- ✦ Allow the parents or guardians to attend and assist with interpretation and insight.



# Issues You May Encounter

- ♣ Decision on regular unit or special unit.
- ♣ Unhelpful parents
- ♣ Overprotective parents and parents who do not disclose a disability
- ♣ Behavior of others toward members with disabilities
- ♣ Activities that do not allow participation
- ♣ Administration of medications



# Individual Scout Advancement Plan

## What is an “ISAP?”

- ♣ Like an IEP, but specific for Scouting
- ♣ A roadmap for parents
- ♣ A “contract” that can be followed and updated
- ♣ A guide for district and council decision makers
- ♣ BSA Form No. 512-936



# Resources

- ♣ Parents, guardians, and teachers
- ♣ Unit leadership
- ♣ The person who is disabled
- ♣ [www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness](http://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness).
- ♣ *Introduction to Working with Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities*, No. 510-071
- ♣ *Scouting for Youth with Disabilities*, No. 34059
- ♣ *Guide To Advancement* , No. 33088
- ♣ Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 512-730
- ♣ Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility, No. 512-935
- ♣ Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP), No. 512-936



# SCENARIO 1

A Scout permanently uses a wheelchair. The Scout needs to hike and wants to join their troop for a day hike. Is it considered “hiking” if the Scout uses their wheelchair?  
Why or why not?



# SCENARIO 1

**Yes,**  
if this is the Scout's normal  
mode of transportation.



## SCENARIO 2

A Scout is well on the way to Eagle. The Scout is planning on finishing by the time the Scout is 17½ but at 17 is in an automobile accident. The Scout is in the hospital and then rehab for six months and cannot participate in Scouts. Might the Scout qualify for an extension of time for Eagle rank?



# SCENARIO 2

**Yes.**

Although this may not be a permanent situation, the Scout was on track and should not be denied Eagle due to an incident beyond their control.



# SCENARIO 3

A Scout is 17½ and realizes there will be enough time to finish Eagle. The Scout has a learning disability and applies for an extension in time. Should this be approved? Why or why not?



# SCENARIO 3

## Maybe.

Known circumstances such as a moderate learning disability that a Scout has coped with over many years, would not normally qualify for an extension.

If a disability is not permanent and severe, and does not qualify for registration beyond the age of eligibility, then an extension is possible if the disability is so significant that advancement within the time frame allowed is essentially precluded.



# SCENARIO 4

A blind Scout reports completing Astronomy merit badge. You ask the Scout how the youth identified constellations. The Scout replies that the merit badge counselor punched holes in paper plates, held them over the Scout's head outside at night, in the right place for the night sky, and the Scout felt the holes in the plates to identify the constellations. Should this be acceptable? Why or why not?



# SCENARIO 4

**Yes.**

The Scout completed the requirement with a reasonable level of assistance.



# SUMMARY

**disabilities = different abilities**

**We all have them.**

Youth who have disabilities want the same personal growth opportunities that any youth does. It is our challenge to provide them.



# For More Information

- [Guide to Advancement, No. 33088](#)
- [Introduction to Working with Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities, No. 510-071](#)
- *Scouting with Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059*
- [Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 512-730](#)
- [Individual Scout Advancement Plan \(ISAP\), No. 512-936](#)
- [Request for Registration beyond the Age of Eligibility, No. 512-935](#)



**Other advancement resources available at:**

[www.scouting.org/resources/advancement/](http://www.scouting.org/resources/advancement/)



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