



ABILITIES DIGEST



Prepared. For Life.® Vol. 3, No. 4

Fall 2016



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Enhancing Awareness

Sign Up for the 2017 National Jamboree

Be prepared: The 2017 National Scout Jamboree is next summer! Taking place at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, the Jamboree is a don't-miss opportunity for both adults and youth. Adults may sign up as leaders through their local council or may contact the Jamboree directly at www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/jamboree-registration/ to join as a staff member. The disAbilities

Awareness Challenge staff positions are located at "Program - Exhibits & Displays

Disability Awareness General Staff T 6329." Don't let the "exhibits & displays" label fool you --- the dAC is an action-packed experience!

The disAbilities Awareness Challenge (dAC) will once again be a highlight activity at the 2017 Jamboree. We encourage you to sign up to staff this activity for either the whole Jamboree (15-29 July 2017) or for half the Jamboree – 15-22 July or 22-29 July). If you know of other Scouters who care about disAbilities Awareness, please invite them to sign up for our team! The dAC Summit location is immediately adjacent to most of the popular high adventure activities at Action Point in the Summit Center.

At the Summit in 2013 the disAbilities Awareness Challenge became one of the "must-do venues" of the Jamboree. Never turning away any of its participants, the Challenge earned its reputation as one of the top program



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- **Enhancing Awareness:** Sign up for the 2017 Jamboree and visit the disAbilities Awareness Challenge, Report from the summer training session at Philmont, interpreting services using augmentative communications devices.

- **Upcoming Event:** Training conference at the Florida Sea Base.

- **Recognizing Abilities:** It's almost the end of the year: be sure to nominate Council volunteers for the Torch of Gold and/or the Woods Services Award.

choices. At that Jamboree, the dAC was busy whenever it was open and there was often a waiting line of eager participants. This year dAC will be better than ever and we expect to surpass previous attendance levels. In addition to the 16 unique interactive activities within the dAC, there will be a staff opportunity to work Disabilities Access Services, which assists participants who have been identified as having disabilities in accessing and scheduling their individual Jamboree program. We also will have the “Invisible Disabilities” activity, which will enable participants to experience the Autism Spectrum, as well as ADHD. Our goal is to impart a solid first-hand experience in what it’s like for a person who has a disability to perform specific tasks, sports or activities.

Philmont Training, August 2016: Serving More Scouts with Disabilities



Last summer the Philmont Training Center offered a session entitled “Serving More Scouts with Disabilities in Your Local Council” during Week 10, August 7-13. The participants represented eleven councils from around the country. This conference addressed building or strengthening council and district disabilities awareness committees that can support training, program resources, and advancement issues, and also provide general support for units serving Scouts with disabilities. Increasing membership and organizing new Scouts with special needs units was also emphasized during the course. All participants came away better equipped to deal with the many questions and situations involved in working with Scouts who have special needs, and to provide support and education for Scouts, families, leaders, and council staff in delivering a quality Scouting experience. At least 10 of the councils represented have a nascent Disabilities Awareness Committee, or a stronger existing committee now!

If you missed this opportunity last summer, there will be another course at Philmont next summer: August 6-12, 2017. Save the date!

Interpreting Services for Augmentative Communication

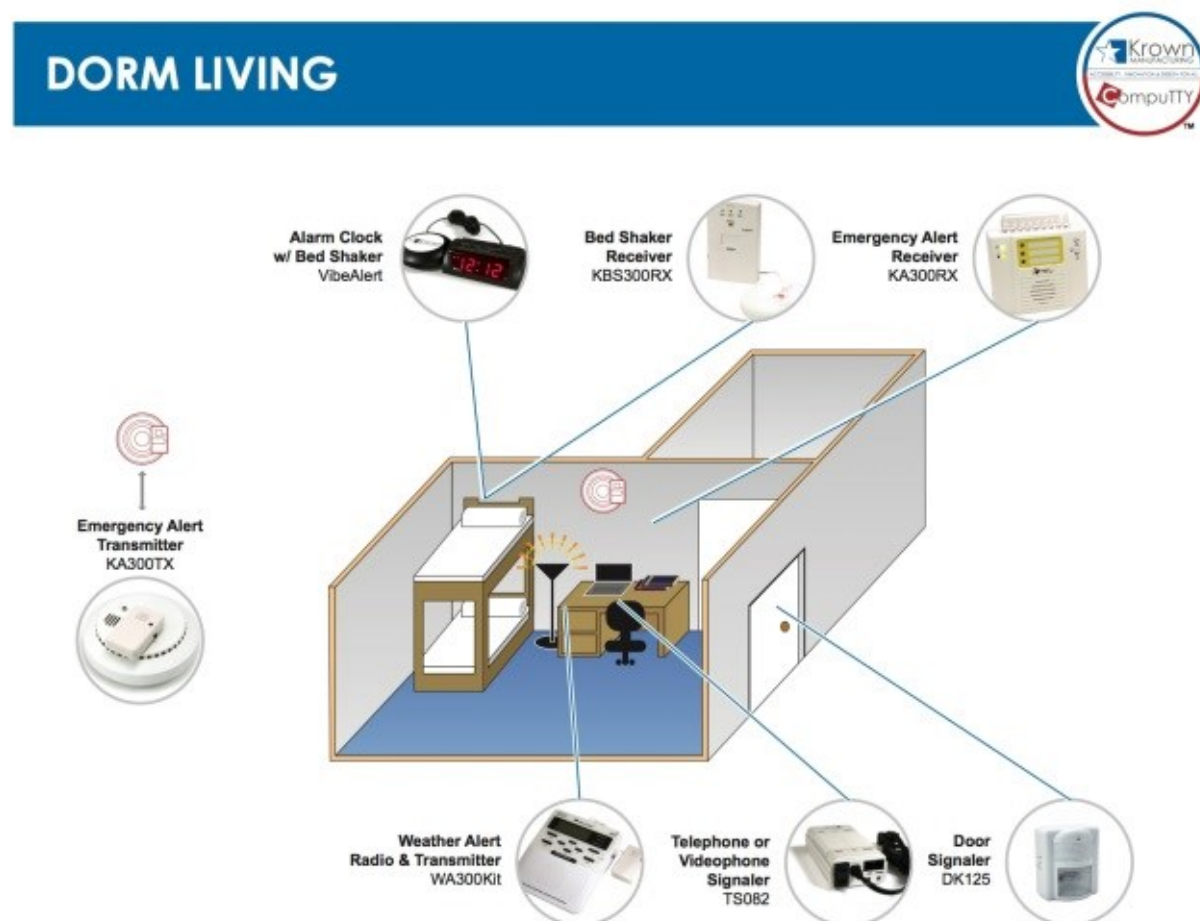
Interpreting Services can help with communications in many environments: educational settings, hospitals, workplaces, conferences and more. Below are the more popular versions used today:

- **Interpreter** helps facilitate communications between two people. Can be in sign language or another language other than spoken English. Interpreters are trained in their field and must have certain certifications through an outside licensing agency.
- **Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)** is where the interpreter is located remotely and uses a web camera to facilitate necessary clear communications for both parties. Common settings are hospitals, legal offices,

and workplaces although other settings might access VRI services. It is preferred to have a live interpreter but sometimes location, scheduling etc. impede accessing the services of a live interpreter.

- **Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART)** is verbatim text of spoken presentation provided for live events. Text can appear on a laptop screen for a couple of individuals or projection screen for a larger audience. Trained operators much like court stenographers use keyboard/stenography methods to transcribe verbal presentations into written text. CART can be done two ways:
 - Onsite CART – The transcriber is on location.
 - Remote CART – Transcriber is at a remote location and listens in via telephone or Internet. Text either appears via cellphone, laptop or projection screen.

Alert devices use loud noise, lights and vibrations to alert people with hearing loss to various environmental sounds. Some assistive devices respond to a specific signal, like a doorbell. Others respond to a variety of signals: baby crying, alarm clock or smoke alarm ringing. The alert system device transmits signals to receivers located throughout a home or workplace, activating a flashing light or vibrating device. Some alert systems even allow people to use their existing alarms, doorbells and etc. making additional electrical wiring unnecessary. One such alert system, illustrated below, is designed for a student living in a dormitory.



Upcoming Events

Sign up for the Conference at the Florida Sea Base, January 15-21, 2017

Come and spend a week with members of the National Program Development Team where we will focus on every aspect of program execution and delivery as well as how to make it so much fun that you can't help but grow. You can spend your week focused totally on your favorite program or mix it up a bit. You'll have over FIFTY different topics to choose from, covering Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, Disabilities Awareness, and Advancement. Whether you choose to focus your learning or just sample around, you'll have the opportunity to spend some time with experts in each of these program areas. You don't need to become as knowledgeable as they are, but knowing how your program can benefit and be benefitted by the full family of Scouting will move you to the next level. No matter what your current Scouting position is, if you're into delivering or supporting an awesome Scouting experience, this week is for you. Just to give us an idea of your interest, register for the conference specific to your passion, but come prepared to take home a broader view of all that Scouting has to offer.



The National Disabilities Awareness Subcommittee is hosting a ten-course track in this training conference. From, participants will be brought up-to-date on best practices for training leaders to include Scouts with disabilities and special needs. Participants will also learn about the functions of a council/district disabilities awareness committee and how to start one. This remains an underserved population in most council areas, and represents an opportunity for membership growth.

Recognizing Abilities

Remember the Torch of Gold Award

The **Torch of Gold** is a council award given to adult Scouters for dedicated work with/for youth, particularly Scouts with disabilities. It is not an award that is earned by fulfilling specific requirements; rather it is recognition for service in multiple areas for many years.



A Peek Ahead

Topics Planned for Future Issues:

Enhancing Awareness: Looking forward to summer camp with Scouts with special needs,

Adapting Advancement: American Sign Language Interpreter Strip, The Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge – counseling Scouts with disabilities.

Another individual must recommend a Scouter to his/her council for the award. Although there are specific criteria for this award, each council should have its own selection procedure. The nomination form can be found at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-945.pdf

The level of dedication and service a nominee should show to receive the Torch of Gold award is comparable to a Scouter who receives the Silver Beaver award; however the service is in the area of Scouts with disabilities. This award shall be given only once to an individual and is not dependent on or influenced by other awards.

The nominee should meet these requirements:

- Be currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America.
- Have at least three or more years of service in any Scouting leadership capacity related to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and/or Venturers with disabilities, including educating other Scouters about disabilities and working with youth who have disabilities.
- Have completed all activities related to Scouts with disabilities on a strictly volunteer basis.

The completed nomination form must be submitted to the council Special Needs or Disabilities Awareness committee or its designee, according to council procedures and deadline. Each council may recognize one Scouter per year with the Torch of Gold Award. The Scout executive must approve the nomination.

Presentation should take place at the council annual recognition dinner, district recognition dinner, or other appropriate Scouting event. Certificate No. 33733 is the appropriate recognition.

December 31st Deadline for Woods Services Award Nominations

The Woods Services Award is granted nationally each year to a BSA volunteer for exceptional service and leadership in the field of Scouting with disabilities. The nominee for this prestigious award must have served Scouts with disabilities for at least 3 years strictly as a volunteer. The Woods Services Foundation in Langhorne, Pennsylvania,

About *Abilities Digest*

Abilities Digest is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Disabilities Awareness Committee. Its intent is to help expand membership through helping parents and Scouting volunteers to improve their understanding, knowledge, and skills related to including and serving the special needs population. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute four issues of *Abilities Digest* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at disabilities.awareness@scouting.org.

sponsors this award in memory of Luther W. Lord. The recipient receives a plaque from the Woods Foundation and may wear the BSA community service square knot.

The Woods Services nomination form is BSA form #512-258 and is found at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-258.pdf

After completion, the nomination must be signed by the nominee's Scout executive and mailed to the national BSA office by no later than December 31 for the following year's award. The Woods Services award is presented in May. Because of the limit of one award per year, each council may only submit one nomination per year.

When completing a nomination form, remember that those individuals that will be evaluating the nominee will not know the Scouter. They can only evaluate what is on the form. Be sure it is complete. You may continue any section on an additional page. A good write up will also include one or more specific examples of exceptional service. Emphasize the number of Scouts affected both directly and indirectly through the nominee's leadership.



Managing Subscriptions to *Abilities Digest*

Abilities Digest is designed for council and district disabilities awareness committees, related staff advisors, and any leader who would offer a Scouting program to youth who have special needs. Any Scouting volunteer or professional may subscribe.

Subscribing. Send a message to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org, with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.

Unsubscribing. To decline future issues please reply and enter "REMOVE" in the subject line. We will remove the subscription within the next two weeks.

Receiving Multiple Copies. If you receive *Abilities Digest* at more than one email address, choose the one to be removed and reply with "REMOVE" in the subject line. Include a message requesting that we remove only that email address.

Duplicate Copies. If you receive more than one copy of *Abilities Digest* at the same email address, please reply to all but one of them with "DUPLICATE" in the subject line.

Address Change. If you want *Abilities Digest* sent to a different address, reply and enter "ADDRESS CHANGE" in the subject line. In your message, enter your council name and the email address you prefer.

Helpful Links

Here are links to current materials to aid volunteers and Scouts with disabilities:

Official Materials Posted on Scouting.org

Scouting with Disabilities landing page: www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx

A variety of materials can be found on this page, including the new Scouting with Disabilities training presentations.

Other Web Resources

Working With Scouts With disAbilities - www.wwswd.org/

Autism Empowerment website - www.AutismEmpowerment.org

Autism and Scouting Website - www.autismempowerment.org/autism-scouting-program/

Children with Special Needs - www.childrenwithspecialneeds.com/disability-info/

Kids with Special Needs - kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/friend/special_needs.html

Social Media

Twitter: [@AbilitiesDigest](https://twitter.com/AbilitiesDigest)



Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Abilities-Digest/824105334298165

