



Scouting is committed to inclusivity and welcomes children of all abilities. Since its founding in 1910, Scouting America (formerly the Boy Scouts of America) has a long history of including members with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities as fully participating members. This commitment stems from the

organization's core values of inclusivity and the belief that all youth should have the opportunity to benefit from the Scouting program.

Composed of volunteers from both Nassau and Suffolk counties, Scouting America Long Island's **Special Needs Scouting Committee** ensures that our programs are designed to adapt to meet the needs of every child and offers information, resources, and support for Scouts, parents, and leaders.

The role of our Special Needs Scouting Committee includes:

- Assisting parents and/or guardians in registering and advocating for Scouts with special needs
- Assisting with certification of Scouts who would benefit from special needs Scouting. All confidential information pertaining to Special Needs classification is sent to the Chair of the Special Needs Scouting Committee. They collect and maintain necessary documentation and coordinate routing to the Council Registrar for input into Scouting America's national system
- Providing guidance on Advancement for Scouts with Special Needs as well as assistance with Alternative Merit Badges. Special Needs Scouting Chair, Susana Isaacson, A.C.S.W. participates on the Advancement Committee as a resource for special needs parents for any questions or situations that may arise
- Offering training and consultation to traditional and special needs units, as well as volunteers and leaders at Council roundtables and conferences
- Interpreting Scouting America's National Policy on Special Needs Scouting
- Promoting information on resources provided by Council

For more information or questions, please contact Committee Chair Susana Isaacson, A.C.S.W. at oshoshana18@gmail.com or 516-263-9398. Additional resources can also be found on our website at: <https://scoutingli.org/resources/special-needs-scouting/>.