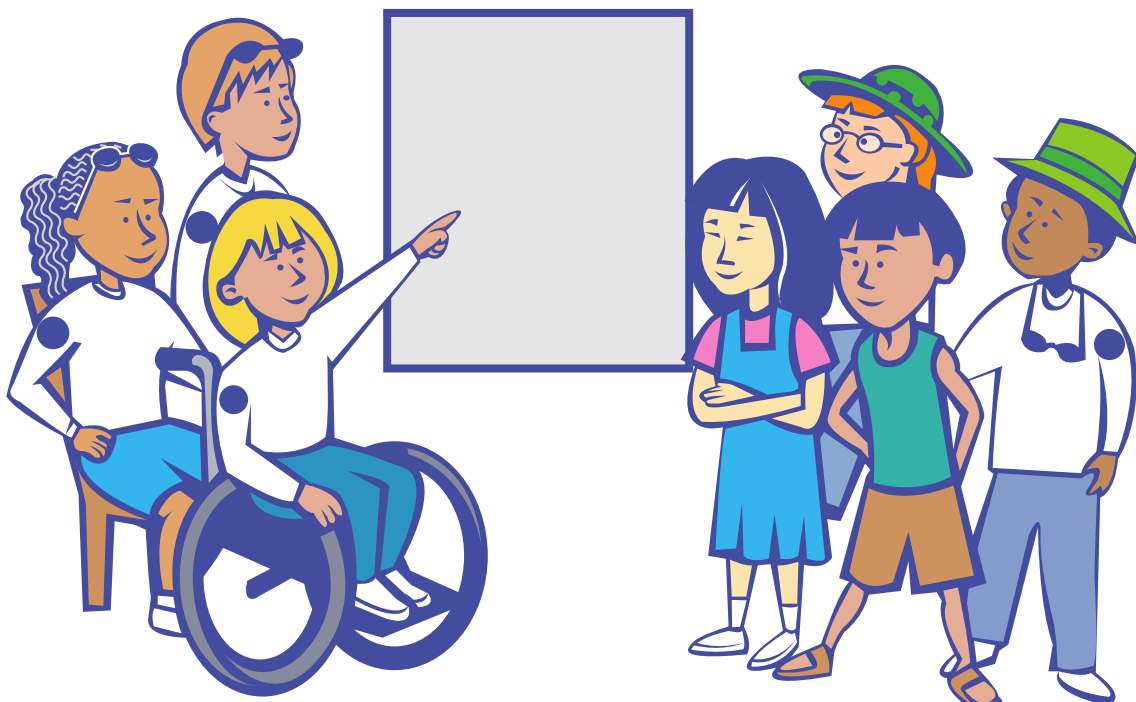


OUR FUTURE IS: INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBLE SUSTAINABLE

Den and Community Programme

#IDPWD2021

#notalldisabilitiesarevisible





Scouter Guidelines

It is important to remember that the purpose of all these activities is to raise awareness of the challenges that might be faced by people with visible and invisible disabilities.

It is important that our scouts learn that for us to be Inclusive and Diverse we must look at the activities we do and find ways to make them more accessible and achievable by everyone.

This project and these activities should not be considered a one off but the start of a journey of discovery. Scouters are asked to consider some of the disabilities that are introduced in this project and how they would facilitate youth members who may have these challenges being able to fully engage within their section. Consider how you would build in inclusivity to your planning cycle.

It is important that scouts and scouters who themselves face some of these challenges are not left feeling that they need to explain what it is like for them. Some may be open about their disabilities and happy to discuss them but not all will either want to, or should be expected to give an account of what they face.

In the case of hidden disabilities, no mention should be made about a youth member or adult who has a particular disability. Data protection concerns should always be considered and medical information is only ever disclosed on a need to know basis.

If you have resources or other activities that you have run in the past believe would help develop the awareness and inclusivity of scouting that you would like to share please email equality@scouts.ie with details.

Any questions can also be sent and the team will try to help if they can.

MY DISABILITY DOES NOT HINDER
MY ABILITY TO BE CONSIDERED EQUAL.





Beavers, have you ever thought about...

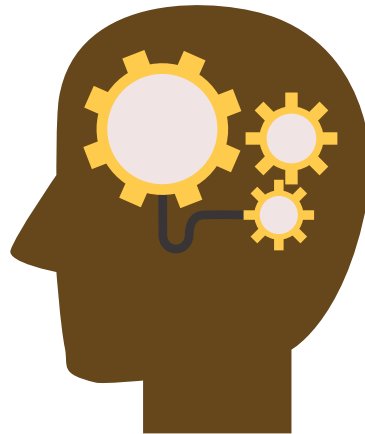


- How easy or difficult it is to use buses, trains, cars or even walking from place to place? Do you live in an area that has pavements?
- Have you ever noticed how doing these things might be easier or more difficult for some people?

- Ask your beavers to draw a map of your local community. Use this activity to introduce your beavers to map reading skills. Beavers should work in teams to complete this activity.
- Ask your beavers to take notice before the next meeting and see how realistic their maps were. Ask them to remember where they have seen disabled parking spaces or pavement ramps for wheelchair access.
- Take your beavers on a walk around of your area and make notes of any accessibility features they can see. This would include the disabled parking spaces, pavement ramps for prams and wheelchairs and any public seating that might be available for those who cannot walk too far without a break.
- Complete an accurate map of your local area.
- Any information gathered about the accessibility of places in your local community can be uploaded by one of your scouters by using the Access Earth App on a smartphone.
- Information about the Accessible Earth Mapping Project can be found at:
- Mapping Events - Access Earth



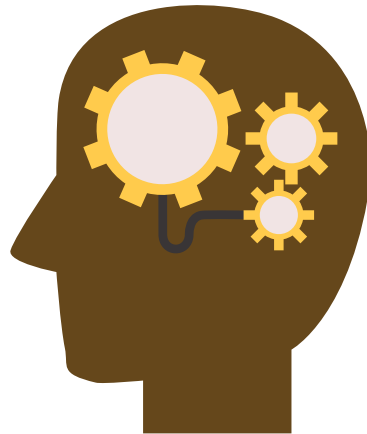
Cubs, have you ever thought about...



- How easy or difficult it is to use buses, trains, cars or even walking from place to place? Do you live in an area that has pavements?
- Have you ever noticed how doing these things might be easier or more difficult for some people?
- Provide your cubs with a simple map of your local area. Have them mark in public transport points, any shops and if they have a step leading into them or are wheelchair accessible?
- Remind your scouts of the symbols used on maps and how to follow them.
- If you are building on the work of a beaver section then add their findings to yours (if not then please ask your cubs to observe over a week the disabled parking spaces, pavement ramps and other accessible features)
- Try to make this map as detailed as you can, ask the cubs to think about the activities on the different types of disabilities that you completed and how difficult movement might be locally.
- Any information gathered about the accessibility of places in your local community can be uploaded by one of your scouters by using the Access Earth App on a smartphone.
- Access Earth Information about the Accessible Earth Mapping Project can be found at:
- Mapping Events - Access Earth



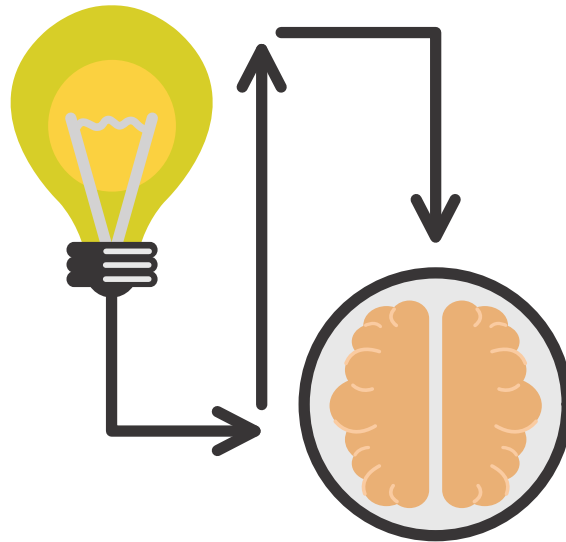
Scouts, have you ever considered...



- How accessible your community is for those with a physical disability?
- What actions have been done to make your community more accessible? What is the action? How does it promote accessibility?
- Writing out all of these accessibility actions that are happening and not happening in your community?
- Making a list of the most accessible places for people with physical disabilities in your community?
- Drawing an accessibility map of your community? What would that look like? Where could you identify areas of accessibility versus areas of inaccessibility for people with physical disabilities?
- Communicating accessibility friendly actions within your community? How would you do there and where? Who would need to know this information?
- Arranging a meeting with the manager of your den or meeting place to consider actions for increasing accessibility?
- Engaging the public in promoting positive changes for accessibility?



Ventures, have you ever thought about...



- If there are any facilities for disabled people in your locality?
- Planning an activity which involved those service users?
- Activities which you can run which involves those service users?
- Would you create a short questionnaire to ask those service users how accessible they find their locality?
- Can you plan with your scouters to work with the service providers to create an activity which takes service users out of their usual meeting place and experience any issues they have accessing different places?

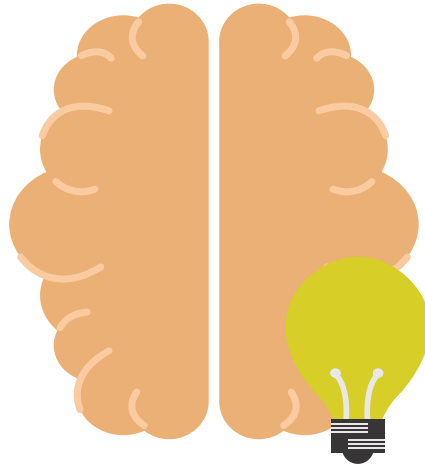
Download the new Accessible Earth App onto your smart phone and upload any information you think a person with a disability would find helpful when navigating your community.

Write up your experiences, take photos and share your findings on accessibility with equality@scouts.ie using the Subject Line Accessibility Project.

Information about the Accessible Earth Mapping Project can be found at:
[Mapping Events - Access Earth](#)



Rovers, have you ever thought about...



- How accessible is your place of employment/education/local area? Can you think of ways to improve mobility and access to community events?
- Can you think of/list service providers for people of varying disabilities in your area?
- Have you ever partnered with these services in order to join or create a community project which is accessible for them?
- Is there a project you can create in partnership with one or more of these services to work with their service users? If possible, try to make this a project that will run over a number of weeks. It can be anything from running suitable games evenings to actively advocating for campaigns that are identified as helping service users play a greater role in their community.

One issue we rarely consider is the ability to read. Figures from NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) shows that 17.9% or about 1 in 6, Irish adults are at or below level 1 on a five level literacy scale. At this level a person may be unable to understand basic written information.

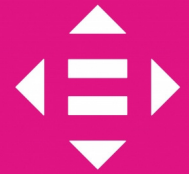
- Can you think how difficult it can be for someone who has a problem reading and understanding simple documents?
- How many things could you be excluded from doing if you cannot read or understand. Think about how we gain information about activities in our community, how we obtain a bank account, a bus pass, even completing a scouting membership form! This might be an area where Rovers can step up and help by joining NALA as a volunteer to aid others to improve their reading skills.

Check a Walking Route

Scouts choose a route in their neighbourhood, such as their walk to school or to a shop. Their aim is to spot impediments to other people getting around.

Section: All
Time: 1 hour
Where: Home, Den

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



PLAN

If someone was born with limited or no eyesight, or lost the use of their legs in an accident, are they less entitled to be able to make their own way to school or the shop? Obviously not. So, wouldn't it be unfair on them if there were impediments to making their way along the path in their own neighbourhood? Discuss the plan with the scouts, getting their thoughts on how something as simple as a trip to the local shop, or school, or library, is an issue of equality. Help them to figure the types of problems to watch for, such as:

- Footpath missing or uneven
- Narrow gaps caused by bad design like the placement of poles or street furniture, or by temporary obstructions, like parked cars
- Branches, bushes or other obstructions hanging out over the path

After scouts have walked the route and tried to spot obstacles, they could wear a blindfold and try to make the journey. Be sure that they have someone along who will keep them safe. Scouts could borrow a wheelchair and try the same route again, or try pushing along a child's buggy to get a similar experience.

DO

Once the scouts have given full consideration to their route, what they are going to watch out for and how they will check it out, they just have to get on and do it. In addition to the obstacles along the way, they scouts might like to see how they would get on at their destination? For example, are there steps up to the building and is there an effective ramp for them instead? Scouts could record their route, and what better way than drawing a map. Mark in the points where there were problems.

REVIEW

To review this activity, you could just get the scouts to share their experiences and explain the difficulties which they faced. However, is this enough? Is it likely to be enough for the scouts? When scouts see unfairness it will be more empowering for them if you can help them to find ways to deal with it. For each impediment to peoples mobility in their own community, ask the scouts three questions:

1. What is the problem?
2. Who could fix it?
3. What are we going to do about it?

Of these, the last question is the most challenging, but this is the difference between wishing things were better and making them better. Help the scouts to prepare respectful, well considered approaches to those who can make the necessary changes, explaining the issues as the scouts see them.

A letter to a local authority, local politicians, community organisations or businesses could bring about the necessary changes.



In a nutshell...

- Scouts plan a walking route in their own locality with the aim of checking how people with limited eyesight or wheelchair users could get around.
- They walk the route to spot obstacles, then experience it while blindfolded or in a wheelchair.
- After identifying the challenges faced by people in their community, they figure who can make the changes required, and then get on an ask them to do so.



Follow-on

To understand this issue further, the scouts might like to meet up with some people who are facing these challenges each day, to get first-hand information on the practical issues and how this makes people feel.



SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

Global Goal 10 aims to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Scouts can be vigilant for situations where this inclusion is missing.

Den Accessibility Self-Assessment

To review and improve the accessibility of our dens for users so that no one is left behind

Section: All
Time: 1 hour
Where: Den, Community



1

YES NO

Do you have your own designated building to use as a Den?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

**Are there any scouters in your troop with a (physical) disability?
 Please circle all that apply to your troop:**

- wheelchair user / walkers with an aid / walker / visually impaired / other

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Is your den accessible for someone in a wheelchair to enter the premises via ramp?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Is the path or ground at the entrance to your Den flat and even?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Is there an Inclusive/Accessible bathroom in your Den?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Is there a quiet space in your Den for people with a physical or mental disability to relax or unwind?

(e.g. A person with Acute levels of Autism, may need a safe quiet place where they can relax if they become agitated).

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Does your Den have a second floor? If so is it supported by a sufficient railing?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Please tick the box of any or all additions you have made or have in your den to accommodate a person with physical disabilities.

Ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lift	<input type="checkbox"/>	Automatic Doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chair lift	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Wheelchair Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rest Area	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2

YES NO

Are the doorways in your Den wide enough to accommodate someone in a wheelchair?

(Minimum Width of 800mm according to Irish Wheelchair Association Guidelines)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Are there any parts of your Den that someone with a physical disability cannot easily access?

(i.e. Stores, Backrooms, Kitchen, sub floor, multiple floors)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Do you have allocated parking or enough parking space for someone with a disability to possibly use?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Have you adapted your den to make activities more inclusive for people with mobility issues?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

In the event of a fire or emergency, are there protocols in place to help those with mobility issues out of the building quickly?

(e.g. designated helper or assistant)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Are there resources available in your Den to accommodate people who might be visually impaired?

(i.e. Large Print, Bright Colours, Braille)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

In your opinion is there anything that can be done locally or nationally to make scouting more open and inviting to people with disabilities?

Feedback/Comments:

Assess and Map it!

To improve map reading skills and critical thinking to explore if our spaces are inclusive by design

Section: All
Time: 1 hour
Where: Den, Home, Community



PLAN

Split into small teams. Give each team an 'Accessibility checklist', some pens, and some sticky notes.

Visit [Mapping Events - Access Earth](#) for more tips

DO

Each group should use their checklist to explore their meeting place and figure out just how accessible it is. This activity focuses on physical disability, for example, people who use wheelchairs or who find walking difficult.

REVIEW

Everyone should gather back together as a group. Did they all find the same things. What were everyone's ideas for making it better? Could you do anything about any of those ideas? Did anyone think of (or find) anything that wasn't on their checklist? Why do you think the spaces are/are not inclusive?



In a nutshell...

- Scouts carry out a den audit
- Scouts draw out a map of their den or chosen community spot and mark places where they could increase accessibility
- After identifying the challenges faced by people in their community, they figure who can make the changes required, and then get on and ask them to do so.



Follow-on

To understand this issue further, the scouts might like to meet up with some people who are facing these challenges each day, to get first-hand information on the practical issues and how this makes people feel.



SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

Global Goal 10 aims to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Scouts can be vigilant for situations where this inclusion is missing.



Learn the ISL Alphabet

Irish Fingerspelling Alphabet

There are many resources online you can use.

See if you have someone in your local community could teach you basic sign language - remember this ability not only makes communication easier with those with hearing difficulties but can be used to work towards Special Interest Badges.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.deafvillageireland.ie/about/deaf-community/>

