

Cub Scout Advancement

The advancement program is so flexible that, with guidance, most boys can do the skills. Advancement requirements should not be watered down or eliminated for boys with disabilities, although the speed at which requirements are completed and the means of explaining them might need to be adjusted and simplified. It might take longer for a disabled boy to earn his awards, but he will appreciate them more by know that he has made the effort. The standard for each Cub Scout should be “Has he done his best?”

A Cub Scout who is physically disabled may be given permission by the Cubmaster and Pack Committee to substitute electives for a few of the achievement requirements that are beyond his abilities. It is best to include parents in this process of determining substitutions since they are more familiar with their son’s abilities.

Immediate recognition of advancement is even more important for boys with disabilities. The Immediate Recognition Kit, the den doodle, and the Den Advancement Chart all help provide immediate recognition in Den meetings as achievements and electives are completed. Remember that a month seems like a long time to a Scout that has completed requirements for rank advancement. Be sure to give him periodic recognition at Den meeting and prompt recognition when he earns his badge.