



International Persons with Disabilities Day



PURPOSE

Girl Scouts will explore different disabilities and understand how they are viewed and included (or excluded) in the community with a goal to see the world a little differently as well as promote cultural diversity.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the International Persons with Disabilities patch, Girl Scouts need to complete a Take Action activity along with the following requirements. Girl Scouts are encouraged to complete at least one activity from each section: Discover and Connect.

- Daisy Girl Scouts: any 4 activities
- Brownie Girl Scouts: any 6 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: any 8 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: any 10 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

BACKGROUND

International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. It is celebrated on December 3rd each year. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and overall well-being of persons with disabilities. This Day also seeks to reinforce the importance of obtaining the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities so that they can fully and equally participate in political, social, economic, and cultural life with others and encounter no barriers. Each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) chooses a theme and creates several advocacy materials that are shared worldwide to help spread awareness for IDPD. This year, the theme is “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world “. While IDPD is celebrated on December 3rd, this patch can be earned year-round!

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- ACTIVITY #1: IDPD is celebrated all throughout the world in many ways. Conduct some research to see if there are any local events happening where you live.
- ACTIVITY #2: What is a disability? List the different types of disabilities and an example of each one.
- ACTIVITY #3: What is the history of disability rights? How were people with a disability treated throughout the years?
- ACTIVITY #4: What is The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Why is it important? How did the civil rights movement help people living with a disability?
- ACTIVITY #5: List 10 organizations that support people with disabilities; five local and five nationally based organizations.
- ACTIVITY #6: Research one person who is famous and lives with a disability. What disability do they have? What important things have they done for the community?
- ACTIVITY #7: What is the difference between inclusion and awareness? Why are these concepts important?
- ACTIVITY #8: Does your city or county offer a department for special populations? What is it called? What programs do they offer the community?
- ACTIVITY #9: Visit this website <https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/> and chat with a friend or adult about what you learned.
- ACTIVITY #10: What is the difference between a visible disability and non-apparent or hidden disability?

CONNECT

- ACTIVITY #11: Is there someone with a disability that you know? Interview them. What are they excited about? What types of events do they like to participate in? Have they had any challenges in their life? What are some major accomplishments?



- ACTIVITY #12: Watch a movie or film that depicts a disability, experience, or current thoughts about people with disabilities. Here is a [website](#) with a few options. Find an adult to watch it with. Discuss your thoughts about the movie with that person
- ACTIVITY #13: What programs are offered at your school for people with disabilities? Talk to a teacher who works with these students.
- ACTIVITY #14: What would you need to change in your home to make it accessible? Draw a diagram of your home and mark where and what the changes would be.
- ACTIVITY #15: Review this website about some suggestions for writing and speaking to or about people with disabilities <https://www.ndrn.org/resource/communicating-about-people-with-disabilities/>. How will you use this knowledge moving forward?
- ACTIVITY #16: Read a book about a person with a disability. Here is a [website](#) with a few options. What did you learn that you can use in the future when dealing with someone with a disability? How can you share what you learned?
- ACTIVITY #17: Think of your favorite toy. How could that be redesigned to include someone with a disability?
- ACTIVITY #18: What is a therapy dog? How are they beneficial to people with disabilities? How are they trained? What disabilities do they support?
- ACTIVITY #19: Write a poem about disability awareness. Share it with your troop.

TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program and/or engage with the Native American community by completing a Take Action activity. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Participate in the in-person program on December 10th in recognition of International Day of People with Disabilities.
- Contact a local disability organization and learn about their volunteer opportunities and how you can help with their mission.
- Find an IDPD event in your area and attend with your friends or family.
- Consider bringing the [New View workshop](#) to your school or community group you are involved with.

- Work with your troop and host a (food, toy, or clothing) drive to donate to a local charity that supports people with a disability.