

Yes, I Can!

A disability awareness Try-It program for Brownie Girl Scouts

INTRODUCTION

This Try-It program is intended to give the girls a greater **awareness** of people who have disabilities, an **understanding** of the conditions which bring about these disabilities, and the experience of giving community service in this area.

Yes, I Can! was developed to start Brownie Girl Scouts on the right pathway to discover "new understanding and awareness" of special needs, as well as the positive contribution to society a person with a disability can make.

This program highlights a variety of disabilities and organizations that serve persons with disabilities in your **Yes, I Can!** community. It is the hope of the Girl Scout Council of Orange County that your troop's involvement in the program will encourage your girls to continue their involvement with persons with disabilities.

Do four (4) of the following activities. The starred * activities must be completed.

1.* What does the term "disability" mean? Learn the characteristics of at least five major disabilities.

Using your list of definitions select 5 different disabilities the troop has an interest in learning more about. Learn what is the cause? Can anything be done to prevent or reduce the disability? Utilize, book, films, videos, internet, and any other resources you can think of.

2.* Which organizations provide services to a person with disabilities in your community? Find at least 2 organizations. What services do they provide? Who do they serve?

3. With a friend "try on" a disability. Maintain your role for the entire troop meeting. At the end of the meeting discuss your reactions to one another.

4. Create posters or dramatic skits about disabilities and safety (accident prevention). Share your poster or skits with your troop.

Topics may include:

- saving your eyesight
- automobile safety
- preventing hearing loss
- dental hygiene
- preventing broken bones
- heart disease
- bicycle safety
- proper nutrition

5. Observe your home, school and community and make note of the physical barriers as they relate to people in wheelchairs, with crutches, or visually impaired. Discuss how these barriers can be adapted to meet everyone's needs.

6. Interview people in the community who have a disability and learn about their careers and recreational activities. Invite someone to your troop meeting.

