

**Cultural Diversity & 'Ability' Awareness
Lake Sands District
Boy Scout Roundtable 12 February, 2009**

- 1) Introduction
 - a) Mark Gilland
 - b) Scoutmaster Troop 366
 - c) District Committee Member
 - d) Webmaster
 - e) Chief Engineer - WJHG
- 2) Topic – Cultural Diversity and 'Ability' Awareness
 - a) Boy Scout Monthly Theme is Cultural Awareness
 - i) Troop Program Features Volume ! (page 105)
 - (1) "This month's program feature will help Scouts to better understand the different ethnic groups represented in their communities"
 - (2) "emphasize that a person's ethnic background is something to be proud of, and that Scouts should be careful not to make fun of another culture by making disparaging remarks or singling out a person because of his or her ethnic background."
 - (3) Examples of the variety of cultures in this area;
 - (a) Hispanic
 - (b) Asian
 - (c) African American
 - (d) American Indian
 - (e) Muslim
 - (4) Local Resources
 - (a) March 14th, Jr. Museum Heritage Days
 - (b) Blountstown – Pioneering village
 - (c) Tallahassee – Seminole Indian??
 - b) 'Ability' Awareness
 - i) Disabilities many forms
 - (1) Allergies
 - (a) Food
 - (i) Peanuts
 - (ii) Tree nuts

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- (iii) Fish
- (iv) Shell fish
- (v) Milk
- (vi) Eggs
- (vii) Wheat
- (viii) Soy

(b) Insects

- (i) Bees / Wasps
- (ii) Fire ants
- (iii) not an inset but . . . Spiders & Scorpions

(c) Anaphylaxis

- (i) "A recent study showed that teens with food allergy and asthma appear to be at the highest risk for a reaction, because they are more likely to dine away from home, are less likely to carry medications, and may ignore or not recognize symptoms."
- (ii) An anaphylactic reaction may begin with a tingling sensation, itching, or a metallic taste in the mouth. Other symptoms can include hives, a sensation of warmth, wheezing or other difficulty breathing, coughing, swelling of the mouth and throat area, vomiting, diarrhea, cramping, a drop in blood pressure, and loss of consciousness. These symptoms may begin within several minutes to two hours after exposure to the allergen, but life-threatening reactions may get worse over a period of several hours.
- (iii) In some reactions, the symptoms go away, only to return two to three hours later. This is called a "biphasic reaction." Often these second-phase symptoms occur in the respiratory tract and may be more severe than the first-phase symptoms. Studies suggest that biphasic reactions occur in about 20 percent of anaphylactic reactions.

(2) Physical Disabilities

- (a) Cerebral Palsy

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- (i) It is a non-progressive disorder, meaning the brain damage does not worsen, but secondary orthopedic difficulties are common. For example, onset of arthritis and osteoporosis can occur much sooner in adults with cerebral palsy. In addition, motor disorder(s) may be accompanied by "disturbances of sensation, cognition, communication, perception, and/or behavior, and/or by a seizure disorder".
- (ii) There is no known cure for CP. Medical intervention is limited to the treatment and prevention of complications arising from CP's effects. A 2003 study put the economic cost for CP sufferers in the US at \$921,000 per case, including lost income
- (iii) Notables
 1. Christy Brown (Irish writer and painter who wrote *My Left Foot*, which was later adapted into an Oscar winning movie of the same name starring Daniel Day Lewis)
 2. Stephen Hopkins (signer of USA Declaration of Independence, reputed to have stated, "My hand trembles, but my heart does not)
 3. Susie Maroney, (world-record holding marathon swimmer)

(b) Spina Bifida

- (i) is a developmental birth defect involving the neural tube: incomplete closure of the embryonic neural tube results in an incompletely formed spinal cord. In addition, the vertebrae overlying the open portion of the spinal cord do not fully form and remain unfused and open. This allows the abnormal portion of the spinal cord to stick out through the opening in the bones. There may or may not be a fluid filled sac surrounding the open spinal cord. Other neural tube defects include anencephaly, a condition in which the portion of the neural tube which will become the cerebrum does not close, and encephalocele, which results when other parts of the brain remain unfused.

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(ii) According to the Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), over 73 percent of people with spina bifida develop an allergy to latex, ranging from mild to life-threatening. The common use of latex in medical facilities makes this a particularly serious concern. The most common approach is to try to avoid development of the allergy by avoiding contact with latex-containing products such as examination gloves, catheters, and many of the products used by dentists.

(iii) Notables

1. John Melencamp
2. Hank Williams
3. Jean Driscoll (Olympian and eight-time Boston Marathon winner)

(c) Cystic Fibrosis

(i) is a hereditary disease affecting the exocrine (mucus) glands of the lungs, liver, pancreas, and intestines, causing progressive disability due to multisystem failure.

(ii) There is no cure for CF, and most individuals with cystic fibrosis die young: many in their 20s and 30s from lung failure. The predicted median age of survival for a person with CF is 37 years. However, with the continuous introduction of many new treatments, the life expectancy of a person with CF is increasing to ages as high as 40 or 50. Lung transplantation is often necessary as CF worsens.

(iii) Cystic fibrosis is one of the most common life-shortening, genetic diseases. In the United States, 1 in 4,000 children are born with CF. It is most common among western European populations; one in twenty-two people of Mediterranean descent are carriers of one gene for CF, making it the most common genetic disease in these populations.

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(d) Down's Syndrome

- (i) is a chromosomal disorder caused by the presence of all or part of an extra 21st chromosome. It is named after John Langdon Down, the British doctor who described the syndrome in 1866. The disorder was identified as a chromosome 21 trisomy by Jérôme Lejeune in 1959. The condition is characterized by a combination of major and minor differences in structure. Often Down syndrome is associated with some impairment of cognitive ability and physical growth as well as facial appearance. Down syndrome in a baby can be identified with amniocentesis during pregnancy or at birth.
- (ii) Individuals with Down syndrome tend to have a lower than average cognitive ability, often ranging from mild to moderate developmental disabilities. A small number have severe to profound mental disability. The incidence of Down syndrome is estimated at 1 per 800 to 1,000 births, although these statistics are heavily influenced by the age of the mother. Other factors may also play a role.

(iii) Notables

1. Chris Burke, American actor who portrayed "Corky Thatcher" on the television series *Life Goes On* and "Taylor" on *Touched By An Angel*.
2. Stephane Ginnsz, actor (*Duo*)—In 1996 was first actor with Down syndrome in the lead part of a motion picture

(3) Acquired Disabilities

(a) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

- (i) is a set of symptoms and infections resulting from the damage to the human immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- (i) This condition progressively reduces the effectiveness of the immune system and leaves individuals susceptible to opportunistic infections and tumors. HIV is transmitted through direct contact of a mucous membrane or the bloodstream with a bodily fluid containing HIV, such as blood, semen, vaginal fluid, preseminal fluid, and breast milk.

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(ii) Although treatments for AIDS and HIV can slow the course of the disease, there is currently no vaccine or cure. Antiretroviral treatment reduces both the mortality and the morbidity of HIV infection, but these drugs are expensive and routine access to antiretroviral medication is not available in all countries. Due to the difficulty in treating HIV infection, preventing infection is a key aim in controlling the AIDS epidemic, with health organizations promoting safe sex and needle-exchange programmes in attempts to slow the spread of the virus.

(b) Spinal Cord Injury

(i) Paraplegic

1. is an impairment in motor and/or sensory function of the lower extremities. It is usually the result of spinal cord injury or a congenital condition such as spina bifida which affects the neural elements of the spinal canal. The area of the spinal canal which is affected in paraplegia is either the thoracic, lumbar, or sacral regions. If the arms are also affected by paralysis, tetraplegia is the proper terminology.
1. While some people with paraplegia can walk to a degree, many are dependent on wheelchairs or other supportive measures. Impotence and various degrees of urinary and fecal incontinence are very common in those affected. Many use catheters and/or a bowel management program (often involving suppositories, enemas, or digital stimulation of the bowels) to address these problems. With successful bladder and bowel management, paraplegics can virtually prevent all accidental urinary or bowel discharges.

(ii) Quadriplegic

1. also known as **tetraplegia**, is a symptom in which a human experiences paralysis affecting all four limbs, although not necessarily total paralysis or loss of function.

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2. It is caused by damage to the brain or the spinal cord at a high level - in particular spinal cord injuries secondary to an injury to the cervical spine. The injury, known as a lesion, causes victims to lose partial or total mobility of all four limbs, meaning the arms and the legs.
3. Typical causes of this damage are trauma (such as car crash, gunshot wound, fall, or sports injury) or disease (such as transverse myelitis, polio, or spina bifida).
4. It is possible to suffer a broken neck without becoming quadriplegic, such as when the vertebrae are fractured or dislocated but the spinal cord is not damaged. Conversely, it is possible to injure the spinal cord without breaking the spine, such as when a ruptured disc or bony spur on the vertebra protrudes into the spinal column.

(b) Multiple Sclerosis

- (i) (abbreviated MS, also known as disseminated sclerosis or encephalomyelitis disseminata) is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system attacks the central nervous system, leading to demyelination. Disease onset usually occurs in young adults, and it is more common in females. It has a prevalence that ranges between 2 and 150 per 100,000. MS was first described in 1868 by Jean-Martin Charcot.
- (ii) MS affects the ability of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord to communicate with each other. Nerve cells communicate by sending electrical signals called action potentials down long fibers called axons, which are wrapped in an insulating substance called myelin. In MS, the body's own immune system attacks and damages the myelin. When myelin is lost, the axons can no longer effectively conduct signals. The name multiple sclerosis refers to scars (scleroses – better known as plaques or lesions) in the white matter of the brain and spinal cord, which is mainly composed of myelin. Although much is known about the mechanisms involved in the disease process, the cause remains unknown. Theories include genetics or infections. Different environmental risk factors have also been found

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(iii) There is no known cure for MS. Treatments attempt to return function after an attack, prevent new attacks, and prevent disability. MS medications can have adverse effects or be poorly tolerated, and many patients pursue alternative treatments, despite the lack of supporting scientific study. The prognosis is difficult to predict; it depends on the subtype of the disease, the individual patient's disease characteristics, the initial symptoms and the degree of disability the person experiences as time advances. Life expectancy of patients is nearly the same as that of the unaffected population.

(c) Alzheimer's / Dementia

(2) Developmental Disabilities

(a) ADD

(i) In some people, the signs of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) seem obvious -- fidgeting constantly, having difficulty paying attention in school or at work, and leaving every task unfinished. Based on these and other symptoms, doctors have designated different types of ADHD, which are used to diagnose ADHD and prescribe treatment (often stimulant medications, such as Ritalin).

(ii) Yet the symptoms of ADHD may mimic those of other conditions, and sometimes the signs are subtler and harder to distinguish. One psychiatrist, Daniel Amen, MD, believes that to get a truly accurate diagnosis of ADHD it's necessary to look inside the brain to see how well various areas are functioning. He has developed his own set of ADHD subtypes based on brain scans of children with ADHD, which he says can better target treatment and determine whether it's working.

(iii) Types of ADD

1. Hyperactive Component (ADHD)

- a. Fidgeting
- b. Squirming
- c. Getting up often when seated
- d. Running or climbing at inappropriate times

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- e. Having trouble playing quietly
 - f. Talking excessively or out of turn
 - g. Interrupting
2. Inattentive Component
- a. Not paying attention to detail
 - b. Making careless mistakes
 - c. Failing to pay attention and keep on task
 - d. Not listening
 - e. Being unable to follow or understand instructions
 - f. Avoiding tasks that involve effort
 - g. Being distracted or forgetful
 - h. Losing things that are needed to complete tasks

(iv) Notables

- 1. Terry Bradshaw NFL quarterback and sports announcer
- 2. Ty Pennington – ABC's Extreme Home Makeover
- 3. Glen Beck – CNN Headline News
- 4. Woody Harrelson – Actor
- 5. Paul Orfalea – Founder of Kinko's
- 6. Mark Gilland

(b) Dyslexia

- (i) is a learning disability that manifests primarily as a difficulty with written language, particularly with reading. It is separate and distinct from reading difficulties resulting from other causes, such as a non-neurological deficiency with vision or hearing, or from poor or inadequate reading instruction.
- (ii) Evidence suggests that dyslexia results from differences in how the brain processes written and spoken language. Although dyslexia is thought to be the result of a neurological difference, it is not an intellectual disability. Dyslexia is diagnosed in people of all levels of intelligence.

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- (iii) Dyslexia's main manifestation is a difficulty in developing word-level reading skills in elementary school children. Those difficulties result from reduced ability to associate visual symbols with verbal sounds. While motivational factors must also be reviewed in assessing poor performance, dyslexia is considered to be developmental. Most scientific criteria for dyslexia exclude cases that can be explained as arising from environmental factors such as lack of education or total sensory deficits.
- (iv) Dyslexia can be substantially compensated for with proper therapy, training, and assistive technology. Many coping strategies are developed subconsciously by the individual dyslexic.
- (v) Dyslexia has many variations dependent on the cultural choice of visual notation of speech. So the nature of the notation used in different cultures creates different types of problems for their groups of dyslexics. The differences between the English text and Chinese characters is a good example.
- (vi) Dyslexia can also result in minor speech difficulties (i.e. switching around syllables, mispronouncing, unable to express their ideas because they can't find the words.)
- (vii) Notables
 1. Orlando Bloom, actor
 2. Richard Branson, entrepreneur
 3. Cher, singer and actress, and her daughter, Chastity Bono
 4. Tom Cruise, actor
 5. Whoopi Goldberg, actress and comedienne
 6. Anthony Hopkins, actor
 7. Jay Leno, talk show host and comedian
 8. Jackie Stewart, racing driver

- 2) Video
- 3) Conclusion
- 4) Q&A