

Erie Shores Council, BSA

# disAbilities Membership Report



May 2017

disAbilities Awareness & Inclusion Committee

Sonya Whitehead, Chair

# Objective and Methodology

## Background and Objectives

The Erie Shores Council disAbilities Awareness and Inclusion Committee conducted this survey, which was first introduced in 2015 and repeated in 2016, to further quantify and understand the breakdown of Scouts with disabilities, within traditional units, throughout the Council in order to better serve Scouts and parents and to better support unit volunteers. Specific objectives include:

- ✚ Understand the various disabilities that are represented within the council's membership
- ✚ Determine the need to target specific training events by district or council
- ✚ Understand the breakdown of different disabilities within each district
- ✚ Determine how the committee may provide support and/or resources to individuals, units or districts

## Methodology

To meet the objectives of the survey, a one-page disAbilities Membership survey was submitted to the Council to be included with the 2017 re-charter packets for each unit of the Erie Shores Council. Surveys were also provided electronically for volunteers and Council staff upon request. The format for this survey was slightly modified from that used the previous year. Upon completion of the initial rechartering cycle, reminders were sent to units that had not returned surveys. This was done via the council professional staff and Roundtable announcements. In addition, members of the Council disAbilities Awareness & Inclusion Committee followed up with individual units in cases where clarification was needed. The Scoutreach (non-traditional) units also participated in the survey for the first time this year. Since these units are registered in the Learning For Life program, their membership is shown separately as *non-traditional*.

Rate of Response percentages for the surveys of each district varied from 35.3% to 49.1%. The council-wide response rate was 43.6% from traditional units and 29.55% from Scout Reach. This creates an overall response rate of 40.9% of the council's total units.

This report includes all the findings from the survey. Council totals are shown as both "*Traditional Only*" and "*Traditional with Scoutreach*". A copy of the survey, tables of survey responses and registrar information are included in the report.

# DETAILED FINDINGS

## Survey Submitted

The survey submitted outlines both general and specific disabilities. The five traditional districts included were: Commodore Perry, Eagle Bay, Northwest, Swan Creek and Wood. As noted above, the Scoutreach District was included for the first time this year. The findings will be presented by district and overall Council totals.

# 2017 Erie Shores Council disAbilities Membership Survey

Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has had fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disAbilities. Scouting gives youth living with a disAbility the opportunity to participate alongside other youth. The Boy Scouts of America encourages the inclusion of Scouts with disAbilities in all of our units.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the extent, demographics, and population of Scouts with disAbilities in our Council by number of Scouts, i.e., not by name. This information will help us better serve all Scouts, provide leaders with resources and training to better serve the youth, and target specific areas of high need in regard to training and resources.

**Please complete this survey to the best of your ability, and return with your re-chartering packet.**

**UNIT #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DISTRICT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Pack, Troop, Crew, Post, or Ship AND Number

**# SCOUTS IN UNIT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# SCOUTS W/ DISABILITIES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Registered

**# SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE EARNED THE UNIT'S HIGHEST RANK IN THE PAST YEAR:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., Arrow of Light, Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster)

**PERSON COMPLETING SURVEY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Note: Count each Scout only once. If Scouts have multiple disAbilities, use that category and list the disabilities.)**

## # OF SCOUTS

\_\_\_\_\_ **Autism Spectrum Disorder** (including Asperger's Syndrome)

\_\_\_\_\_ **ADHD** (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Blind or Sight-Impaired**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Deaf or Hearing-Impaired**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cognitive disability** (Learning disAbilities, reading disorders such as Dyslexia, writing disorders such as Dysgraphia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Speech Impairments, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Developmental delay**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Down Syndrome**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities** (Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Physically disabled** (Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, paralysis, mobility impairments, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seizures / Epilepsy**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Traumatic brain injury**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Multiple Coexisting Disabilities** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
Please specify 2 most prominent

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

## Council-wide totals for Traditional Scouting

Based on a total of 186 traditional units, survey data was received from 81 units resulting in a response rate of 43.6% of the units Council-wide. This 43.5% of units represented 1,855, or 47.1%, of the council's total 3,942 youth members in traditional units. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities totaled 288 or 15.5% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. *Please remember that this number does not include the Non-Traditional units within Scoutreach.* This data is based on the membership report data provided as of March 31st, 2017 by our registrar and presented in the effort to provide for a year to year comparison based on previous studies.

The breakdown of special needs represented are:

<b>Special Need (SN)</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% Scouts</b>	<b>% SN Scouts</b>
Autism Spectrum Disorder	46	1.17%	15.97%
ADHD	163	4.13%	56.60%
Blind or Sight Impaired	0	0%	0%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	4	0.10%	1.39%
Cognitive Disability <sup>1</sup>	22	0.56%	7.64%
Developmental Delay	6	0.15%	2.08%
Down Syndrome	0	0%	0%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities <sup>2</sup>	29	0.74%	10.07%
Physically Disabled	8	0.20%	2.78%
Seizures/Epilepsy	1	0.03%	0.35%
Traumatic Brain Injuries	2	0.05%	0.69%
Multiple Diagnosis	13	0.33%	4.51%

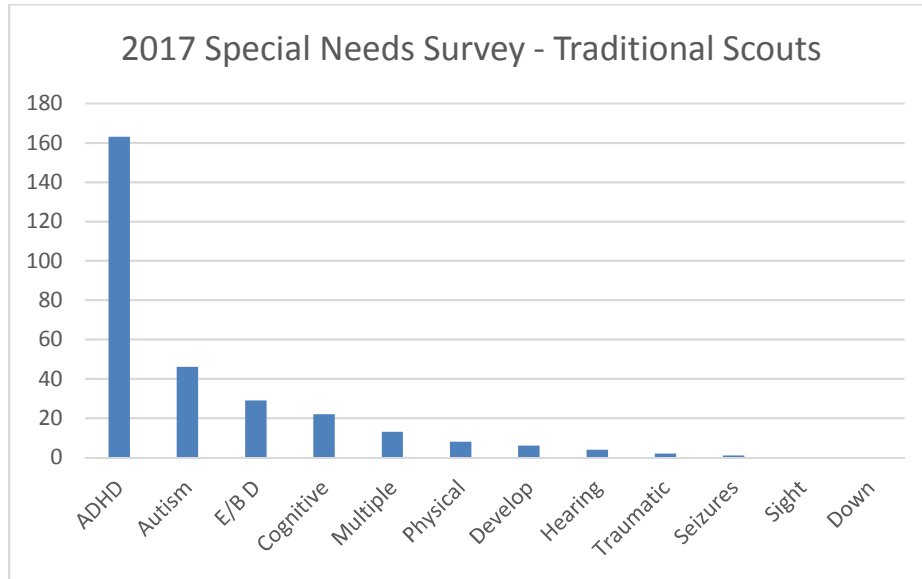
The category of “multiple diagnosis” includes all listed diagnosis as appropriate. This category is exclusively for Scouts that have more than one diagnosis. Scouts identified with multiple diagnoses had each specific disability identified so that each disorder could be captured.

The percentage of youth with the respective disAbilities in the council and/or districts is based on the premise that the reported youth represent a very similar percentage with that entire organization.

<sup>1</sup> Cognitive Disabilities include: learning disabilities, reading disorders such as Dyslexia, writing disorders such as Dysgraphia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Speech Impairments, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities include: Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc.

A pareto break down of the disabilities reported within our Council:



Special Need	total	% Scouts	% SN Scouts
ADHD	163	4.13%	56.60%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	46	1.17%	15.97%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	29	0.74%	10.07%
Cognitive Disability	22	0.56%	7.64%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	13	0.33%	4.51%
Physically Disabled	8	0.20%	2.78%
Developmental Disability	6	0.15%	2.08%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	4	0.10%	1.39%
Traumatic Brain Injury	2	0.05%	0.69%
Seizures / Epilepsy	1	0.03%	0.35%
Blind or Sight Impaired	0	0.0%	0.0%
Down Syndrome	0	0.0%	0.0%

**Comparison of the top 3 Disabilities for both surveys (common rankings)**

Disability / Percentage each survey	2015	2016	2017
ADHD	49.40%	54.50%	56.60%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	22.71%	13.11%	15.97%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	18.73%	8.23%	10.07%
<b>Estimated Council Membership</b> (traditional units)	<b>4,550</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>3,942</b>

## **Council-wide results for TOTAL Membership (Traditional *and* Scoutreach)**

Based on a total of 230 traditional and Scoutreach units, survey data was received from 94 units resulting in a response rate of 40.9% of the units Council-wide. This 40.9% of units represented 2,069, or 44.4%, of the council's total 4,665 youth members in all of our units. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities totaled 319 or 15.4% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. These numbers include the Non-Traditional units within Scoutreach. This data is based on the membership report data provided as of March 31st, 2017 by our registrar.

The breakdown of special needs represented are:

<b>Special Need (SN)</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% Scouts</b>	<b>% SN Scouts</b>
Autism Spectrum Disorder	47	1.01%	14.73%
ADHD	185	3.97%	57.99%
Blind or Sight Impaired	0	0%	0%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	4	0.09%	1.25%
Cognitive Disability <sup>1</sup>	24	0.51%	7.52%
Developmental Delay	7	0.15%	2.19%
Down Syndrome	1	0.02%	0.31%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities <sup>2</sup>	33	0.71%	10.34%
Physically Disabled	8	0.17%	2.51%
Seizures/Epilepsy	1	0.02%	0.31%
Traumatic Brain Injuries	2	0.04%	0.63%
Multiple Diagnosis	13	0.28%	4.08%

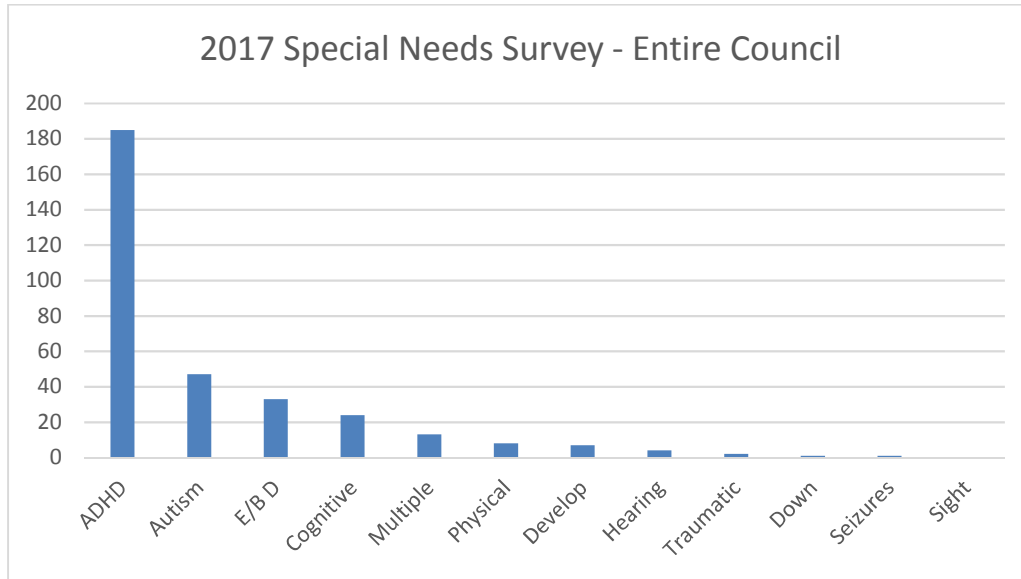
The category of “multiple diagnosis” includes all listed diagnosis as appropriate. This category is exclusively for Scouts that have more than one diagnosis. Scouts identified with multiple diagnoses had each specific disability identified so that each disorder could be captured.

The Council wide percentages shown are based upon the entire council's results including both the traditional and Scoutreach (LFL) District units.

<sup>1</sup> Cognitive Disabilities include: learning disabilities, reading disorders such as Dyslexia, writing disorders such as Dysgraphia, Auditory Processing Disorder, Speech Impairments, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities include: Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, etc.

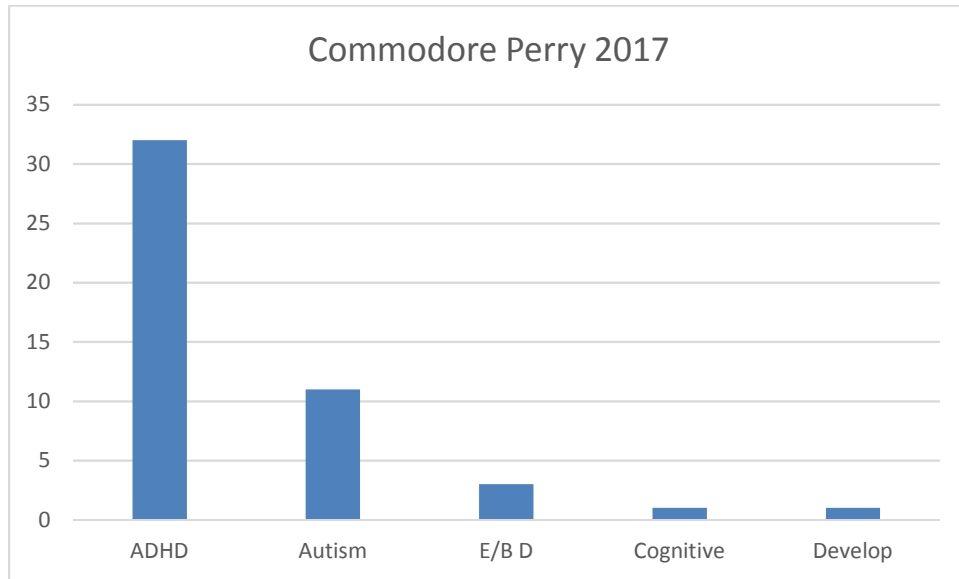
A pareto break down of the disabilities reported within our Council:



<b>Special Need</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% Scouts</b>	<b>% SN Scouts</b>
ADHD	185	3.97%	57.99%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	47	1.01%	14.73%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	33	0.71%	10.34%
Cognitive Disability	24	0.51%	7.52%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	13	0.28%	4.08%
Physically Disabled	8	0.17%	2.51%
Developmental Disability	7	0.15%	2.19%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	4	0.09%	1.25%
Traumatic Brain Injury	2	0.04%	0.63%
Down Syndrome	1	0.02%	0.31%
Seizures / Epilepsy	1	0.02%	0.31%
Blind or Sight Impaired	0	0.0%	0.0%

## Commodore Perry District

There are a total of 29 units within Commodore Perry District. There were 11 units that completed the survey which is a 37.9% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 178 Scouts, accounting for 40% of the district's total membership of 524 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 48 or 26.97% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:

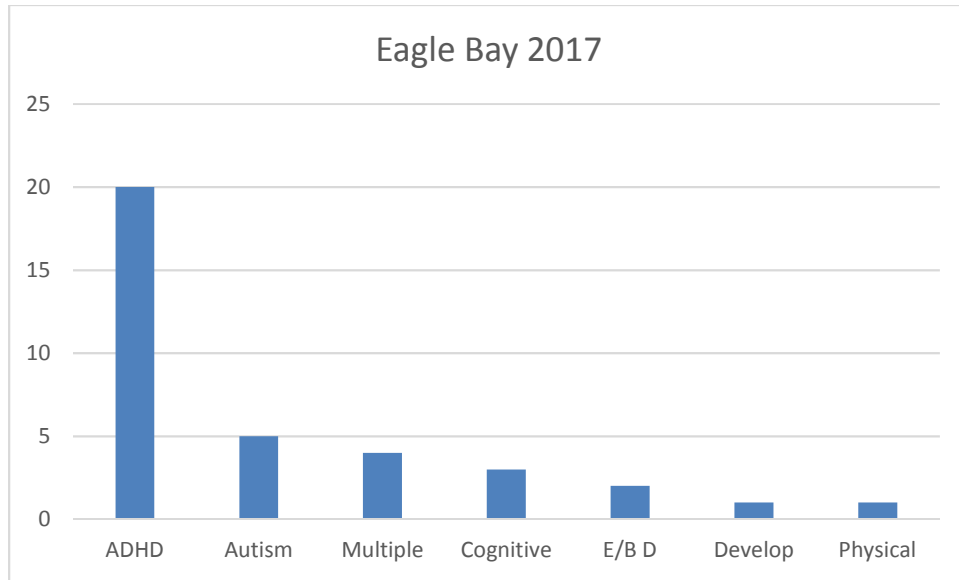


Special Need (SN)	total	% SN Scouts Council	% SN Scouts District
ADHD	32	57.99%	66.67%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	11	14.73%	22.92%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	3	10.34%	6.25%
Cognitive Disability	1	7.52%	2.08%
Developmental Disability	1	2.19%	2.08%



## Eagle Bay District

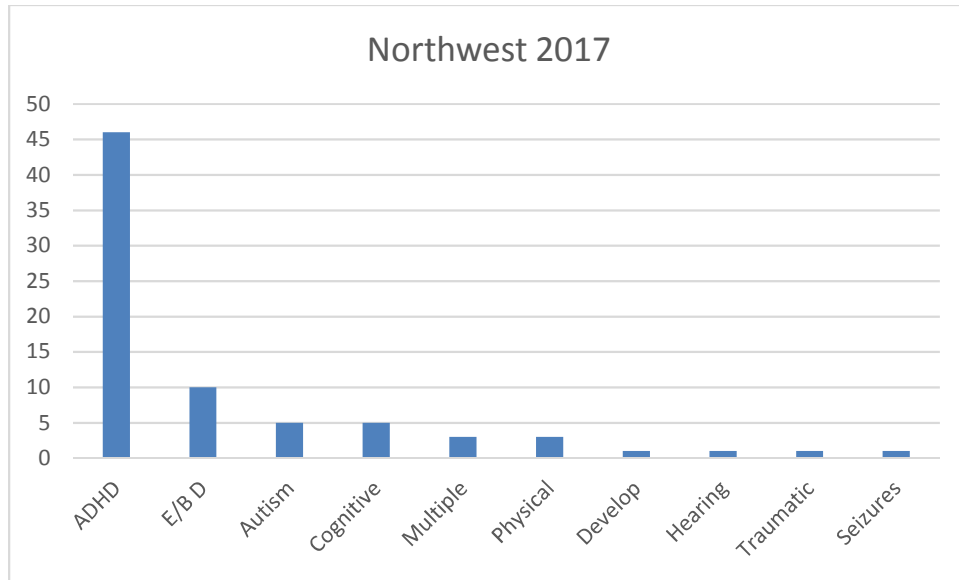
There are a total of 33 units within Eagle Bay District. There were 16 units that completed the survey which represents a 48.5% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 272 Scouts accounting for 46.9% of the district's total membership of 580 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 36 or 13.2% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:



<b>Special Need (SN)</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% SN Scouts Council</b>	<b>% SN Scouts District</b>
ADHD	20	57.99%	55.56%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	5	14.73%	13.89%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	4	4.08%	11.11%
Cognitive Disabilities	3	7.52%	8.33%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	2	10.34%	5.56%
Developmental Disability	1	2.19%	2.78%
Physically Disabled	1	2.51%	2.78%

## Northwest District

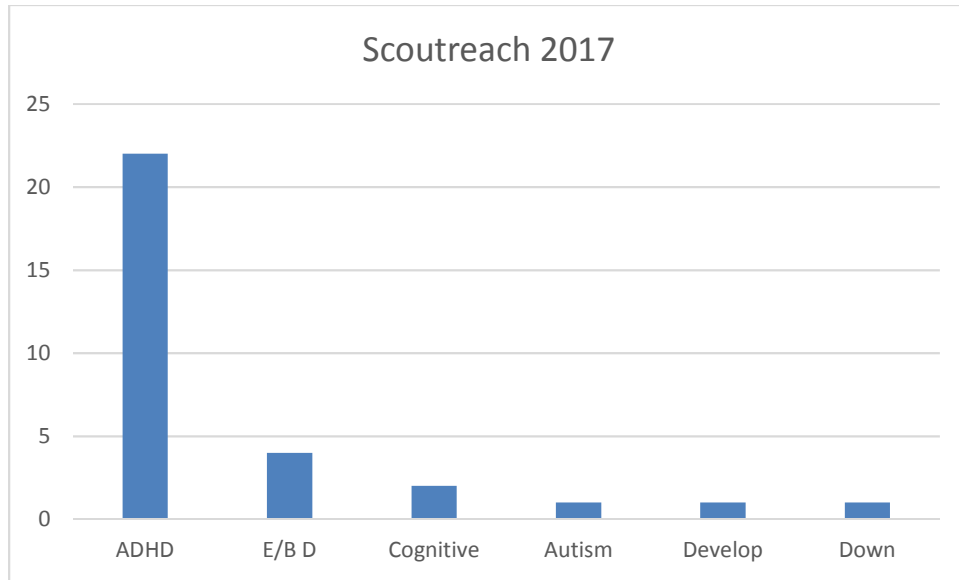
There are a total of 37 units within Northwest District. There were 16 units that completed the survey which represents a 43.2% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 403 Scouts accounting for 46.7% of the district's total membership of 863 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 76 or 18.9% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:



Special Need (SN)	total	% SN Scouts Council	% SN Scouts District
ADHD	46	57.99%	60.53%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	10	10.34%	13.16%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	5	14.73%	6.58%
Cognitive Disability	5	7.52%	6.58%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	3	4.08%	3.95%
Physically Disabled	3	2.51%	3.95%
Developmental Disability	1	2.19%	1.32%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	1	1.25%	1.32%
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	0.63%	1.32%
Seizures / Epilepsy	1	0.31%	1.32%

## Scoutreach District

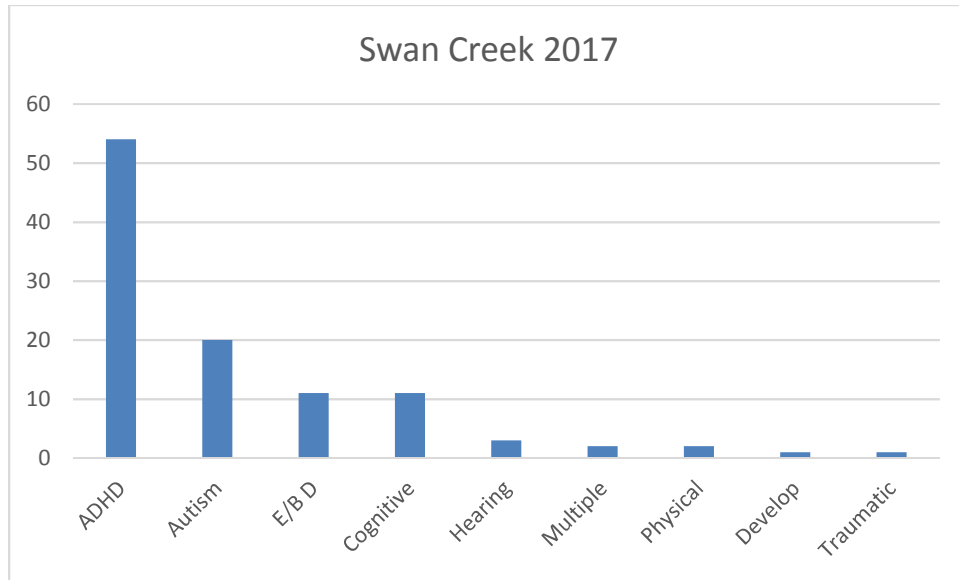
There are a total 44 units within the Scout Reach District. There were 13 units that completed the survey which represents a 29.55% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 214 Scouts accounting for 29.6% of the district's total membership of 723 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 31 or 14.5% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:



<b>Special Need (SN)</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% SN Scouts Council</b>	<b>% SN Scouts District</b>
ADHD	22	57.99%	70.97%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	4	14.73%	12.90%
Cognitive Disability	2	4.08%	6.45%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	1	10.34%	3.23%
Developmental Disability	1	7.52%	3.23%
Down Syndrome	1	2.19%	3.23%

## Swan Creek District

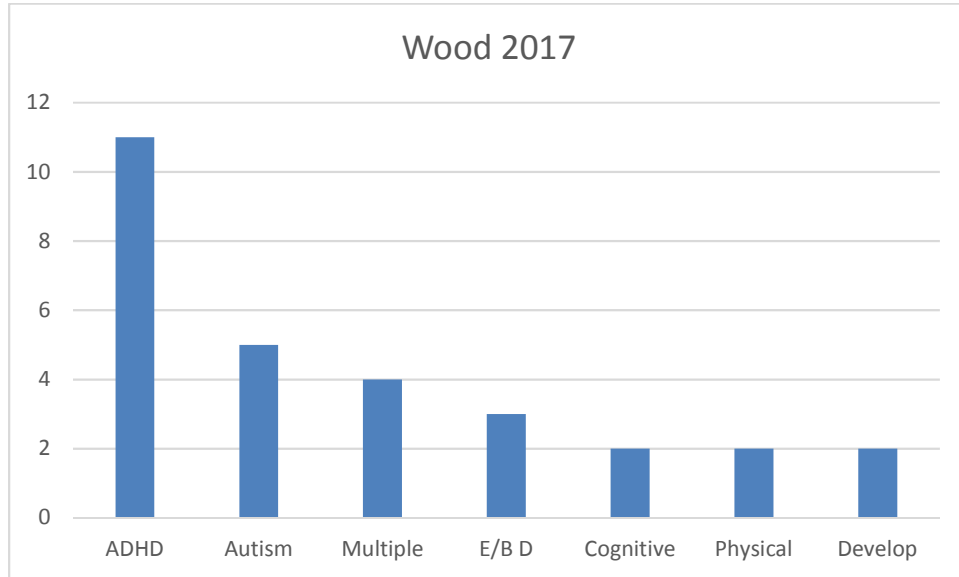
There are a total of 53 units within Swan Creek District. There were 26 units that completed the survey which represents a 49.1% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 702 Scouts accounting for 52% of the district's total membership of 1,351 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 99 or 14.1% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:



Special Need (SN)	total	% SN Scouts Council	% SN Scouts District
ADHD	54	57.99%	54.55%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	20	14.73%	20.20%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	11	10.34%	11.11%
Cognitive Disability	11	7.52%	11.11%
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	3	1.25%	3.03%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	2	4.08%	2.02%
Physically Disabled	2	2.51%	2.02%
Developmental Disability	1	2.19%	1.01%
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	0.63%	1.01%

## Wood District

There are a total 34 units within Wood District. There were 12 units that completed the survey which represents a 35.29% rate of response. The membership of the responding units was 300 Scouts accounting for 48.1% of the district's total membership of 624 youth. The number of Scouts identified with disabilities is 29 or 9.7% of the membership of the units participating in the survey. The identified disabilities are:



Special Need (SN)	total	% SN Scouts Council	% SN Scouts District
ADHD	11	57.99%	37.93%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	5	14.73%	17.24%
Multiple Coexisting Disabilities	4	4.08%	13.79%
Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities	3	10.34%	10.34%
Cognitive Disability	2	7.52%	6.90%
Physically Disabled	2	2.51%	6.90%
Developmental Disability	2	2.19%	6.90%

## Conclusions and Observations

- ✧ First, it should be noted that the *reported* total traditional membership for the council varies significantly for the three years the survey was taken, making a true comparison of the results problematic. This is due to the *timing* of the membership totals used for the survey reports.
  - The total membership used for the 2015 survey was the January 31<sup>st</sup> membership which reflects the *total youth members served during 2014* **prior** to the greatest period of rechartering losses.
  - The total membership used for the 2016 survey was as of February 19<sup>th</sup> which reflects that date's membership **after** the effective date of the greatest rechartering losses.
  - The total membership used for the 2017 survey was as of March 31<sup>st</sup> which again reflects that date's membership **after** the effective date of the greatest rechartering losses.
  
- ✧ Even though the 2017 rate of response declined from that of 2016, the 43.6% of the council's units that participated in the survey represented 47.1% of the council's traditional membership.
  
- ✧ This noted decline in rate of response may be due to several factors, primarily:
  - Unit leaders having the impression that their unit's information was unchanged from the previous year and, thus, there was no need;
  - Reluctance of unit leaders to participate due to a lack of knowledge regarding disAbilities in general and, more specifically, diagnoses affecting the members of their units; this in spite of the previous work of the council's committee;
  - The council committee did not personally contact *every* unit leader that failed to submit the survey (as was done in 2016).
  
- ✧ Since the percentage of units participating still roughly corresponds with the percentage of total council membership, we can draw statistically clear inferences regarding the actual percentage of youth with special needs being served in existing Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews.
  
- ✧ If we can reasonably apply the 15.5% rate to the council's total of 3,942 youth members in *traditional units only*, the inferred number of our *traditional* youth membership with disabilities is 611.
  
- ✧ If we can reasonably apply the 15.4% rate to the council's total of 4,665 youth members in ***all*** units, the inferred number of our **total** youth membership with disabilities is 718.
  
- ✧ The results of the survey provide us with valuable information that can be utilized to guide and refine the committee's efforts to develop training experiences intended to enhance the abilities of unit leadership to serve their members who have disAbilities.

## **Recommendations**

- ✧ Share the results of this survey with the council's executive board and professional staff.
- ✧ Share the results of this survey with the council's district operations group and program committees.
- ✧ Share the results of this survey with the BSA's National Disabilities Awareness Committee.
- ✧ Utilize the data as a driving force for content of training events such as our annual University of Scouting for unit leaders as well as presentations to our Boy Scout camp staff at Camp Frontier and our Cub Scout day camp staff at Camp Miakonda.
- ✧ Seek like statistics of the general population and compare the statistics gathered by our survey in order to assess our effectiveness in serving this population as well as to identify areas of potential growth in units and membership.
- ✧ Utilize the results of the survey to support council membership and finance efforts in areas such as (but not limited to): documenting success regarding inclusion of Scouts with disAbilities in unit membership, demonstrating care and concern to parents of youth having disAbilities, marketing the use of Scouting programs to groups/agencies serving youth with disAbilities, seeking grants to support programming.
- ✧ Repeat the survey in 2018, in conjunction with rechartering as much as possible, utilizing "same-date" membership totals and targeting completion by the end of March. This will enable us to draw better comparisons and improve the accuracy of the data.
- ✧ Seek feedback to further refine the survey instrument and detailed instructions in the cover letter for unit leaders.