

BSA Form No, 6140A (unofficial addendum)
MEETING PLACE INSPECTION Checklist - Accessibility for the disAbled

In order to provide opportunities for the broadest range of individuals to participate in Scouting activities it is suggested that meeting areas and gathering places for events such as Courts of Honor be accessible to all. The Scouting world extends past the youth and leaders to mentors, counselors, and extended family members, any of whom may be disAbled.

Yes No ACCESS TO THE FACILITY

- Is the facility near a public transportation route?
- Do the sidewalks have curb cuts?
- Are there parking spaces reserved for the disAbled?
- Are those parking spaces near the entrance?
- Are those spaces 96 inches wide with an added 60 inches for the movement of a wheelchair?
- Is the entrance on grade, or is there a ramped entrance? [A ramp's incline should not exceed one foot for a 12 foot run.]
- Are there handrails at inclines?
- Do the doors have a power assist or open with a 5 Lb. push-pull?
- Are drains and gratings aligned not to trap wheels?

DOORWAYS - PATHWAYS

- Are door openings (internal and external) at least a 32 inches? [Replacing traditional knife hinges with offset hinges can result in a 2 inch gain in width at minimal cost.]
- Do the doors have lever or handles not requiring twisting or squeezing? [Not knobs]
- Are doorway thresholds beveled and less than 3/4 inch high?
- Are hallways and pathways at least 36 inches wide? [60 inches where two wheelchairs may pass.]

BATHROOM FACILITIES

- Is there an accessible bathroom? [could be Unisex]
- Is there space to transfer from a wheelchair to the seat - 60 inches?
- Are there grab bars in the toilet and shower?
- Is the seat height at 18 inches.
- Is the lavatory height no higher than 34 inches, yet allow 27 inches for knee clearance?
- Is the faucet lever, push, or electronically controlled?
- If there is a shower, does it allow roll-in or transfer to a seat?

MULTIPLE LEVEL BUILDINGS

- If facilities are not on grade level, are there internal ramps or an elevator?
- Are elevator call buttons no higher than 42 inches, and control buttons 54 inches?

SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE FEATURES

- Are there tactile indicators which can warn a person with vision impairments to obstructions and dangers?
- Are audible alarms (bells) supplemented by strobe lights for the hearing impaired?
- Are water fountains projecting, at a 36 inch spout level, or is a cup holder available for a wheelchair user?
- Are the operable parts of the public telephone no higher than 54 inches?
- In a location with fixed seats are there seating cut-outs or are the aisle seat armrests removable to facilitate transfer from a wheelchair?
- Can a wheelchair user utilize "work" areas (tables, desks, etc.)? [Wooden blocks under the legs can raise the height for tall people, too.]

These are but some of the standards for accessibility. They may seem detailed but they lead to universal design which help everyone. Helping make facilities accessible to all can be a worthwhile Scout service project.

Facilities used or run by the Federal Government were required to become accessible by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA). Standards for accessibility fall under the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), which were modeled after earlier architectural codes. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, followed upon the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA design standards follow closely the earlier UFAS. If you wish to learn more your local Librarian can access information for you.

Private clubs and places of worship are exempted from the provisions of the ADA. However, the areas which such facilities hold open to public accommodations: meeting rooms; educational areas; dining areas, etc. are NOT exempt.

Though places of worship have been exempted from the law, it is not inconsistent to help make them welcoming to persons with disAbilities, and can be developed into a service project or ministry.

Guidance on facilitating congregational access can be obtained from the National Organization on Disability, Religion and Disability Program, 910 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Phone- (202)293-5960; fax- (202)293-7999; eMail - religion@nod.org; or, on the web - www.nod.org

