

"A TELEVISION JOURNEY: SCOUTING AND SPECIAL NEEDS"

By

The Antelope Patrol

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FADE IN:

THE SCOUTING ZONE: OPENING SCENE

Scene opens with our host walking into frame as objects pass before our eyes. An eyeball, a swirly thing, a door...

HOST

stuff.

more stuff.

even more stuff to open the show.

-----CLICK - CHANNEL CHANGES-----

FADE IN:

MYTHFLUSHERS SCENE

Our two hosts, Adam and Jamie, enter into frame as our narrator standing off to the side introduces the segment:

NARRATOR

Welcome to *Mythflushers*, where we use skills honed over years of Scouting to test common myths and determine where they're true or false.

ADAM

Hopefully, you were able to join us last week where we proved that this man is not actually Santa Claus...

Jamie shows an image of Verdugo Scouter Pierre Landry and one of Santa Claus...

ADAM

However, we did confirm that socks worn by Scouts over a full week of summer camp without changing actually are likely to spontaneously combust.

Jamie stoically holds up a pair of burnt socks with tongs from a metal bowl.

ADAM

On this episode of *Mythflushers*, Jamie and I will be looking at the myth that you can't have an accessible Scout activity without compromising the fun for all Scouts.

Jamie, you've been in Scouting a while now right?

JAMIE

Why, yes, quite a number of years.

ADAM

Have you heard people saying they can't have a fun activity for all Scouts that is also inclusive for Scouts with special needs?

JAMIE

Yes.

ADAM

Alright, alright, chatterbox, that's enough.

Let's explore whether this is plausible or a myth.

Today, we will look at a few Scout activities and see if they can be made more inclusive.

JAMIE

Shall I get the ballistic jelly?

ADAM

Nah, we used it up on the socks anyway.

I think this will be a mental experiment. Take a common Scout activity, and then pick a challenging accommodation. Let's first talk about pioneering. That is a great Scout activity!

JAMIE

You're right! Everyone loves pioneering. Let's see, what are great pioneering activities?

ADAM

Building camp gadgets, like bridges, flagpoles, towers, rope bridges, ballistas...

JAMIE

Rope bridges. Those are always fun!

ADAM

True, they can be fun, but is that the only one that would work? Scouts that have physical or mobility challenges could have a hard time on a rope bridge.

JAMIE

I guess you're right. Then what could we do?

ADAM

Inclusion is all about ADAPTATION not ACCOMMODATION.

I was thinking something that can show off lashes, has a physical component like a bridge, but someone with limited mobility could do it.

JAMIE

What are you thinking?

ADAM

Travois Races between patrols! Scout patrols could all build travois out of diagonal lashes, and any Scout, including one with limited mobility, could ride on it while the others pulled it. Lot's of fun, and a useful skill.

JAMIE

That does sound like a lot of fun, but that is only one Scout activity a special needs kid could do. What else could they do?

ADAM

That WAS fun, but it has to be reproducible under a variety of conditions. Let's make this fun.

Let's call this 'The Adaptation Lightning

Round.' Give me a hard one.

JAMIE

Fine. Um, a Cub Scout has little hand strength and is trying to carve.

ADAM

Hah! Substitute a bar of soap or balsa wood.

JAMIE

Scout has poor fine motor skills and is learning knots.

ADAM

Use a thicker rope!

JAMIE

A scout is in a wheelchair and the troop wants to go on a hike.

ADAM

Who says a hike has to be on a trail?

Make it an urban hike on accessible sidewalks, or instead of a trail, pick a fire road.

Also, think about figure eight routes, with the base camp, start and finish points in the middle. One route can be more challenging, the other wheelchair accessible.

JAMIE

A differently-abled Venture Scout has difficulty remembering the steps in a project.

ADAM

Ooh, toughie. I like it...

I got it! Break the Scouts into cooperative groups to ensure completion

for everyone.

JAMIE

Nice.

Rock climbing, younger and older scouts.

ADAM

Give the beginners more instructions and have them boulder before attempting roped-up climbing.

Consider rope-tension assistance with someone with limited upper or lower body strength. And everybody loves zip lines!

JAMIE

Autistic Scout in a busy, loud troop meeting.

ADAM

Consider dimming the lights, or move the meeting outside where the sound carries.

JAMIE

Okay, is adaptation it?

ADAM

Well, just like with any of our shows, safety is important, so consider things like bail-out points, communication and support vehicles.

JAMIE

What about the parents?

ADAM

Parents are key. They should be your partners in planning and advocating for their kids. No one knows their strengths and limitations better.

-----CLICK - CHANNEL CHANGES-----

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Too Many Pinecones

-----CLICK - CHANNEL CHANGES-----

FADE IN:

X-FILES SCENE

Scene opens in a forest. A Scout leader is on the ground (or hunched over on a table). The leader looks to be dead. Coming into the scene our FBI team of Antelope Mulder (because we can't call him "Fox") and Dana Scully

MULDER

What is he doing all the way out here? I thought Scouts always traveled in Packs?

SCULLY

Or in Troops, or Crews, or Patrols...

MULDER

So why is this one alone in the wilderness? Was he abducted? Can you find any unusual markings?

Scully moves over to the victim and begins to examine him

SCULLY

Mulder... I don't think he's dead? I think he's trying to say something

Scout Leader sits up and moans a little...

SCOUT LEADER

Special needs... Special needs...

MULDER

Special needs?

SCULLY

I think he was out here trying to find out about Advancement programs for Scouts with special needs. He must have come out here because he felt all alone in trying to work with these Scouts

MULDER

But Scully, the truth is out there

SCULLY

I think he just didn't know that there are experts at his district and council that can help him develop an Advancement Plan suitable for Scouts with Special Needs.

MULDER

The ISAP...

SCULLY

That's right, Mulder. The "Individual Scout Advancement Plan."

MULDER

My God, Scully, this Leader must have thought he had to do this all by himself! The shock must have placed him in some kind trance that lead him all the way out here to the "trees of knowledge."

SCULLY

Trees of Knowledge?

MULDER

Of course. Trees communicate with each other through their root systems and form symbiotic relationships.

SCULLY

Did the aliens tell you that?

MULDER

No, National Geographic...

Plus, hanging on this tree over here looks like something that might be helpful...

Mulder goes to the tree and pulls down the ring with contact cards

SCULLY

What is it, Mulder?

MULDER

It's a list of different people a Scout leader can contact in order to get the help they need developing an ISAP for their Scouts with special needs.

SCULLY

It can't be just that simple...

the Scout's disabilities need to be assessed and documented, and Alternative Rank Requirements may need to be developed...

MULDER

Yes...

They may even need to find alternative merit badges for those Scouts who's disabilities prevent them from fulfilling the requirements for an Eagle Required merit badge.

But these contacts can help develop these plans, Scully, so a Scout Leader doesn't have to do it all on his own.

SCULLY

Actually, Mulder, they can't do it all on their own, because the Council's Advancement Chair also needs to approve

all modifications to the requirements for rank advancements.

MULDER

Sounds like a lot of paperwork...

SCULLY

Some, but that's what these specialists at your district or council are here to help with. We're not alone in the universe, Mulder...

MULDER

The truth IS out there!

Scully's phone rings, she answers the phone...

SCULLY

Scully... (pause) Yes sir (pause), OK, we'll check it out

MULDER

Who was that?

SCULLY

That was the assistant director. He wants us to check out another case near here. Something about "too many pinecones..."

-----CLICK - CHANNEL CHANGES-----

FADE IN:

THE SCOUTING ZONE: CLOSING SCENE

Our host walks slowly into frame..

HOST

You enter this room at your own risk,
because it leads to the future. Not a
future that will be, but might be.

This is not a new world. It is simply an
extension of what began in the old one. It
has refinements and technological advances
and a more sophisticated approach.

Any state, any ideology that fails to
recognize the worth, the dignity, and the
rights of man, is obsolete. So now we go
on, and carry this path of inclusiveness
so that everyone may enjoy the Scouting
Zone.

FADE OUT:

THE END