

Let me paint a picture for you: Eager young boys engaged in all sorts of neat activities. Yet there always seems to be the “one” (or more depending on the situation) who always seems to be more interested in ‘running around”, “making unnecessary noises or talking incessantly about everything but the topic at hand”, “taking the supplies or equipment and rushing through the task only to use the materials for every purpose but the correct one”. Been to this type of meeting or event? I have and I understand what you are facing.

As you are aware all Cub Pack, Webelos Den, and Scout Unit are comprised of unique individuals. These boys come from various backgrounds with varying scouting goals. Some come eager to learn and someday reach Eagle; while others are only looking for something to do away from home. Most are eager to learn outdoor skills – who doesn’t like to go camping, hiking, etc. – that’s fun! And if the occasional life skill is also learned, well that’s good too!

Yet for all of this enthusiasm, there are some boys who come with challenges. Some we, as leaders, can “see”; other challenges don’t show themselves until later. Some boys are constant motion and expression. Some just can’t focus on any one thing for more than a few minutes at a time. These challenges cause frustration, disruption and possible chaos.

As a Boy Scout leader and certified educator, I too have faced very similar situations. I have faced the boy who can’t seem to focus during skills training to a total inability to control himself both physically and verbally at other times. I have had to assist the boy, the boy leadership and my fellow adult leaders with understanding first the challenge and then looking for the appropriate solution. It is not easy, but it can be done. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

Typically these challenges are labeled as ADD – attention deficit disorder or ADHD – attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder. As an educator I have received additional training on how to work through these challenges. I have shared information as to defining these challenges and providing constructive suggestions for solutions at University of Scouting. I would like to provide myself as a resource to all of my fellow leaders who face these challenges. Please feel free to email me at Kelly2006@windstream.net or if you need to speak to me please feel free to contact me at 895-881-8890. Or if you have a greater need and would like me to meet with all of your leadership, we can perhaps set up a small meeting.

The important thing to remember is these challenges are workable and as always our goal is to make the scouting experience the best it can be for every boy!