

Transport and Mobility



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0845 300 1818

This factsheet is about giving some advice about getting around with Scouts with Special Needs.

TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

Transport and mobility are two issues which need particular attention when working with people with disabilities.

Transport

Before undertaking any activity which requires moving over distances in cars, mini buses and coaches you will need to take into account the following points.

- The vehicle must be adequate and road worthy for the job in hand, including seating, seat belts or other restraints, load carrying capacity, etc.
- Drivers must be properly qualified and insured. (See Midas Scheme below).
- Many education authorities, community or voluntary organisations and wheelchair friendly taxis hire adapted vehicles and drivers.
- There are enough escorts for the numbers involved, remembering to accommodate the personal needs of individual members.
- Ensure that escorts sit with the Members and not in a huddle at the front or back of the vehicle.
- It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that everyone is properly seat belted.
- Check that the seats are adequate for the Members, e.g. do they provide enough support, leg room, etc.?
- Make sure that proper stops are made for rest, meals and toileting.
- Be aware of lifting and handling considerations in all situations.
- Ensure that wheelchairs are properly clamped to the vehicle.
- Any Leader using lifts or ramps allowing access to the vehicle must be trained for this task.

- Ensure safety of exit before opening doors at the end (or break) of a journey, e.g. if a Member is liable to run off then a Leader should be positioned outside the door before any Member gets out.
- Drivers should be aware of refuelling arrangements, e.g. type of fuel, access to fuel tank.
- Be advised that the regulations for carrying able-bodies and disabled persons in minibuses are subject to regular revision. Details on current requirements and advice about good practice are available from Community Transport Association, Highbank, Hatton Street, Hyde. Cheshire SK14 2NY Tel/Fax 0161 351 14750 or 0161 366 6685 and in N. Ireland 90 403535 and Scotland (pm only) 0131 652 2989. Information is also provided by CTA on the Midas minibus driver training scheme.
- Some disabled young people will have their own transport.

If Walking

- Ensure that distances are within Members abilities.
- Ensure that the route is consistent with Members abilities and that there are sufficient helpers. There should always be at least two responsible adults with the group.
- Ensure that there is adequate 'back up' transport to pick up stragglers, people who drop out, etc.
- Does the activity require a "Scouting" Authorisation. If so, there are factsheets available to inform and support. Contact The Information Centre 0845 300 1818 or www.scoutbase.org.uk

Public Transport

- If using public transport does the carrier need to be notified? e.g. rail companies provide ramps at stations, access to lifts, etc.
- If taking wheelchair users, is the carrier aware of the situation, can the carrier cope?

The Scout Information Centre

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- Are wheelchair users allowed? e.g. some parts of London Underground are not available to wheelchair users. Find out from London Transport Information 020 7222 1234 or Textphone 020 7918 3015