Among the four districts, Algonquin, Manitoga, Mohican, & Muscoot, one thousand four hundred twenty-two (1422) Scouts have been registered. Of the four districts, Manitoga has the largest number of Scouts. In 2017, Muscoot saw a relative increase in new registrations, followed closely by Algonquin. Of all Troops in Westchester Putnam Council, seventy-one (71) percent responded to our Scouts with Special Needs survey. One hundred and ninety-six (196), Scouts were identified as having special needs; this represents 14 percent of all registered Scouts.

Among cognitive disability, the most prevalent diagnosis for Boy Scouts was found to be attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity (ADHD), followed by Autism, while the most common emotional difficulty endorsed was Panic Disorder. Asthma remains to be the most prevalent chronic medical condition, and there is a large percentage of Scouts who experience food allergies.
A large percentage of Troop leaders felt positive about their Unit’s practices to include scouts with special needs, and the majority of leaders feel confident in their ability to identify such Scouts. The majority of respondents feel they routinely engage parents of youth with special needs, and often rely on medical forms to understand what those needs may be. Whereas a large proportion of Units have adapted their activities to accommodate a Scout with special needs, there are only a handful of units that have an identified trained leader serving as a liaison with the SN Scouting committee.

With respect to Cub Scout Units, Packs showed little differences. With 54 percent of all registered Packs reporting, there were two thousand three hundred seventy-two (2372) Cubs registered, of which 175 or 9 percent were youth identified as having one or more Special Needs. The most prevalent cognitive diagnosis was ADHD and the most common emotional difficulty was Panic Disorder. The number one chronic medical condition cited was Asthma and Food Allergies were as prevalent as in 25 percent, among Cubs.

In sum, the majority of adult leaders in Packs feel confident in knowing how to identify a scout with special needs and many units do adapt activities accordingly. However, only a handful of units have a trained adults who serve as links with the Scouts with Special Needs committee. Lastly, while a large majority of units do involve parents into their Pack’s activities, and review medical records of their youth, a significant proportion of units do not have a clear process of soliciting information regarding Cubs & Webelos with special needs,

Based on the information collected, here are some important points to consider:

1. We are still missing responses from a number of Troops and Packs across our county, therefore the current data may be an underrepresentation of the real numbers.
2. Figures collected during this year’s survey remain very similar, if not identical with data collected in 2016-2017. There are no new trends or significant differences.
3. A large majority of units do have clear procedures to both identify scouts with special needs and accommodate their ability accordingly during activities.
4. The prevalence of adult leaders serving as liaisons between their units and the SN Scouting remains low. This may be an area to further explore and develop in the future.
5. Members of the SN Scouting committee will continue to conduct survey(s) in the future, to better understand the strengths and difficulties we encounter as a council in addressing scouts with special needs. The data collected will ultimately be used to increase resources, develop more effective programs, as well as improve training sessions offered to Adult Leaders across our districts.