

## My Community At-Home Work (Required for Advancement)



My Community is a required adventure. A Scout must complete the two tasks below **prior to the December 3, 2025** Den Meeting. *Please note that completing the tasks below are not enough to complete the adventure. A Scout must also attend and complete the activities at the Den Meeting. Also, to complete this Adventure, a Scout must have participated in the yard cleanup community service project at the November 15 Pack Meeting at St. John's, in the Holiday Cards for Deployed Soldiers Project, or in a community service project arranged by the Scout's parents.*

### **Two Tasks to Complete At-Home:**

1. Scouts must read about the Three Branches of the U.S. Government below and explain to their parent the power each branch has over laws.
2. Scouts must read about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) below. They must explain to their parent how each branch of the U.S. Government has been involved with the law. On a piece of paper, they must make a timeline of events pertaining to the law based on the information provided. There should be 6 events on the timeline. Please bring the completed timeline to the Den Meeting.

### **Reading: The Three Branches of Government\***

The **U.S. Constitution** is the document that created the U.S. Government. It setup the branches (or parts) of government and gave powers to each branch. The U.S. Constitution also protects the rights of the people. It is the highest law in the U.S. and no other law or leader in the U.S. is supposed to go against it. The Three Branches of the U.S. Government are the:

1. **Legislative Branch**, which is made up of the U.S. Congress. This is a group of over 500 people who are elected from each State in the U.S. The **U.S. Congress** makes laws.
2. **Executive Branch**, which is led by the U.S. President. The **President** puts laws into effect and makes sure they are followed.
3. **Judicial Branch**, which is led by the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a group of 9 judges who are experts on the U.S. Constitution. The **U.S. Supreme Court** makes sure that laws do not go against anything stated in the U.S. Constitution.

### **Reading: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)\***

One example of a U.S. law is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This law has two main parts that say:

1. Business owners cannot refuse to hire someone just because they have a disability as long as they are able to do the job with the use of special tools. For example, a blind person could likely still do a computer job if he or she has a special keyboard and headphones.

2. People who own buildings that are used by the public like schools, restaurants, and stores must make sure that people with disabilities can use their buildings. Examples include: having a ramp for people in wheelchairs to enter a building that has stairs.

## **The ADA and the Three Branches of Government Timeline**

**In 1988**, the idea for the ADA was brought up in the **U.S. Congress**. When an idea for a new law is written down and proposed in the U.S. Congress, it is called a bill. A bill will not become a law unless the majority (over 50%) of people elected to the U.S. Congress vote to approve it.

**In 1990**, over 90% of the people elected to the U.S. Congress voted to approve the ADA.

However, in order for a law to become official and go into effect, a law must be approved by the **President**. **In 1990**, President George H.W. Bush approved the ADA and it went into effect.

Some people thought the ADA did not follow the U.S. Constitution. They thought it allowed too many people to be considered disabled. Therefore, they asked the U.S. Supreme Court to look at the ADA and make sure it followed the U.S. Constitution.

**In 1999**, the **U.S. Supreme Court** decided that they did not think someone could be considered “disabled” if they could use medication, eyeglasses, or other devices or tools to help their illness or injury so that it did not impact their lives a lot. This meant that fewer people would be protected by the ADA. Some thought that was fair and others thought it was unfair.

**In 2008**, over 95% of the people elected to the U.S. Congress voted to approve the ADA Amendments Act. This law allowed more people to be protected by the ADA once again.

**In 2008**, President George W. Bush (who is the son of President George H.W. Bush) approved the ADA Amendments Act and it went into effect.

## **Reading: Types of Disabilities**

A **disability** is when someone's body or brain works differently than most people. A disabled person might need extra help or tools to do things that others can do easily. People can be born with disabilities or they can become disabled at some point during their lives because of an illness or an accident.

There are many types of disabilities that involve different parts of the human body. Some include: vision (blindness), hearing (deafness), communicating (not being able to speak), movement (not being able to walk or use other parts of the body very well), and thinking (not being able to learn very well or else when your brain works very differently from most other people).

There are many other types of disabilities. About 25% of Americans have some sort of disability. However, these disabilities impact people very differently. Some need more help or tools than others.