

Outing held for handicapped Scouts

Approximately 400 physically and mentally handicapped Staten Island Cub and Boy Scouts demonstrated their special capabilities and skills yesterday afternoon at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

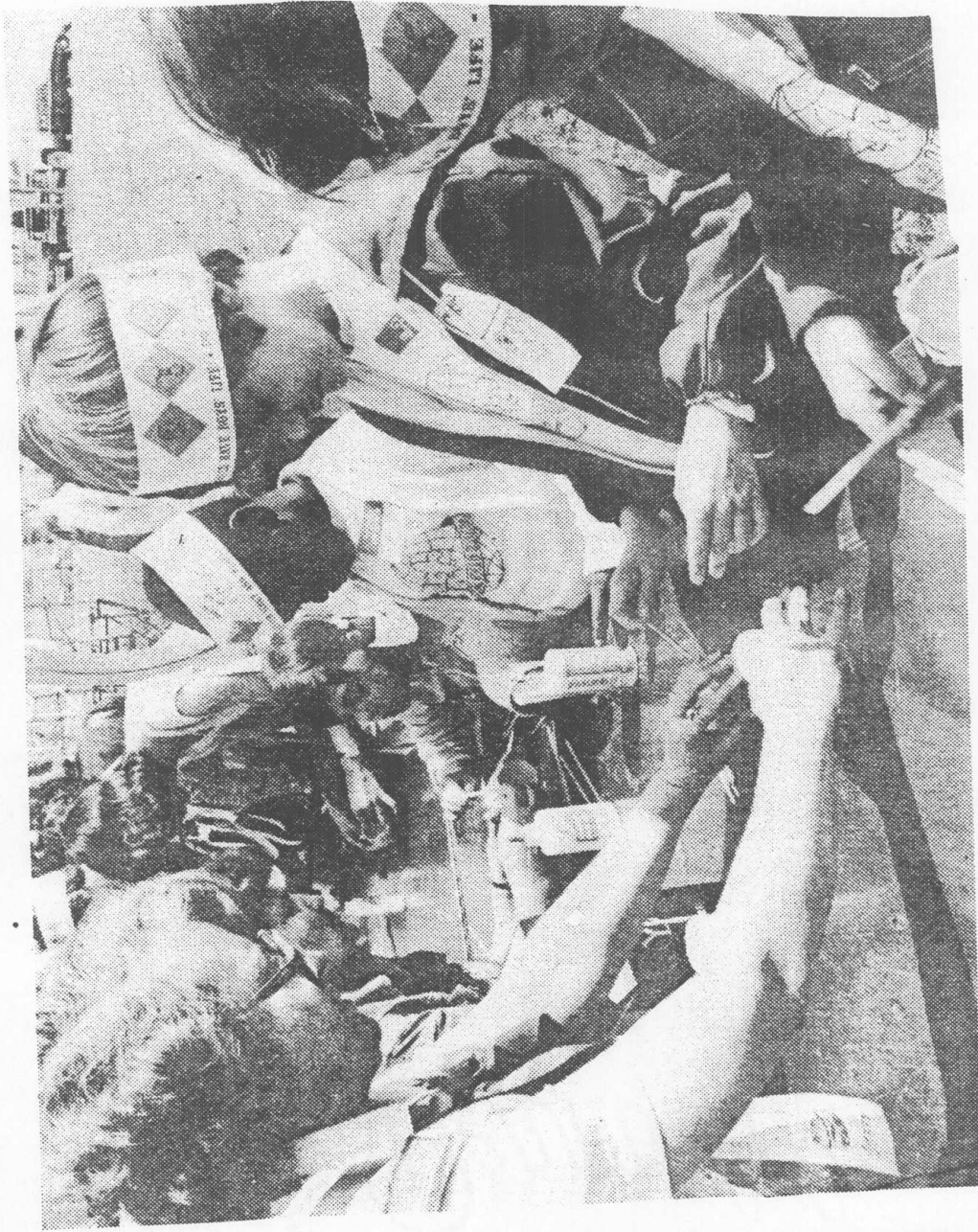
The event, known as "Scouting is Outing," was sponsored by the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and was the first of its kind in the city.

Activities were centered around a model campsite, complete with tents and campfire. Handicapped Scouts participated in special exhibits, demonstrations and games. In each instance, spectators were shown how the traditional Scouting program was tailored to accept the participation of the handicapped youngsters.

"For the past three years we have carefully built our handicapped Scouting program so that now we have 15,000 Boy Scouts actively participating," said Steve Wells, director of the special program and an Eltingville resident.

A large part of the new Scouting for the Handicapped program operates in conjunction with the Board of Education. Teachers in the Special Education Division act as volunteer leaders, with classrooms serving as meeting areas.

Pedro the Talking mule, Scouting's official mascot, and Casper the Friendly Ghost, a comic book and cartoon character, were also on hand at each event to encourage the youngsters.



Betty Harty, Staten Island Cub Scout training chairwoman, left, helps David Carey of P.S. 18 make a pencil container at the Scouts' "Scouting is Outing" day held at Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.