

Handicapped scouts show their skills



Bert Quadman shows youngsters how to properly fold the American flag.

By MARY ENGELS

MORE THAN 400 physically and mentally handicapped Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts turned out last week at the Staten Island Developmental Center to participate in an outdoor demonstration designed to showcase their special capabilities and skills.

The event, known as "Scouting Is Outing," is the first of its kind for the city's handicapped scouts.

"We felt the time has come for our youngsters to show the community not only what they have learned and what they can do, but how well they can do it," said Steve Wells, an Eltingville resident and director of the Scouting for the Handicapped program of the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America.

The outing centered on a model campsite, complete with tents and

campfire. The youngsters took part in a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and games. Spectators were shown how the traditional scouting program has been tailored to meet the needs of these special scouts.

An added feature of the new scouting program for the handicapped is that it operates in conjunction with the Board of Education.

Special Education Division teachers act as volunteer leaders. Classrooms are used as meeting areas for the handicapped scouts.

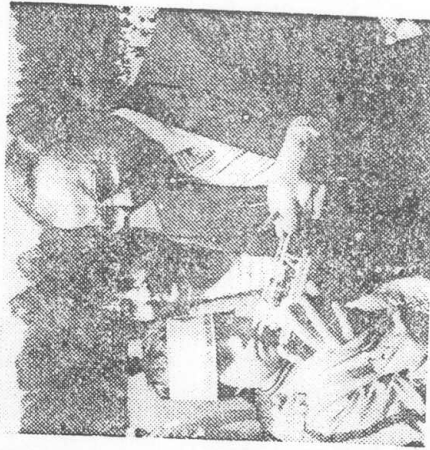
"This event will, for the first time, give scouts a chance to take their skills outside the classroom," Wells said. "It will allow the community to see the handicapped scouts in action."

Teachers from PS 19 and PS 69 were on hand with the youngsters who participated in the program.

A special treat for the scouts was the appearance of two fire engines, which they got to explore.



Matthew James (l., photo left) and Jay Armstrong use volunteer Moshe Grumbaum to show scouts how comfortable a sleeping bag can be while Eric Weingarten shows handicraft to Gail Williams, a special education teacher, and Ralph Lamberti, president of Staten Island Boy Scouts Council and deputy borough president.



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