

About Scott: Recreation Activities for a High School Student

EDCG-630

Scott is a bright and outgoing sixteen-year old whose hero is Stephen Hawking. He eventually wants to go onto college and study physics. Scott has Duchene Muscular Dystrophy (MD), a severe form of muscular dystrophy that affects 1 out of 3,500 boys of all ethnic groups. It is a progressive gene mutation that prevents the creation of dystrophin and that causes the muscle cells to eventually die. (For more information about Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, see <http://www.mda.org/publications/fa-dmdbmd-what.html>)

Scott was diagnosed with Duchene MD at the age of three when his parents noticed his unsteady gait and frequent falling down.

Scott has full digital mobility (use of fingers/hands and toes/feet) but limited side to side range of motion of his arms. He is able to reach with each hand from 3 inches of his body to 8 inches out from his body. With his right hand he can reach approximately 5.5 inches to the right of midline and with his left hand he can reach three inches to the left of midline. He cannot cross midline with either hand. He can transfer from a sitting position to a standing position with the help of a stand. In addition to Scott's limited mobility, he has some learning disabilities including dysgraphia. Scott is a strong auditory learner.

It became increasingly dangerous for Scott to maneuver around his home and school by walking, even with the grab bars in place. With the support of his IEP team, Scott is now successfully using a power wheelchair to provide independence in mobility. He also occasionally uses his manual wheelchair when the size of the power chair becomes a challenge.

A newer challenge for Scott is that his vision is now less clear in the dark, such as when watching a movie.

Scott continues to interact well with a fine group of friends, and as a teenager he wants more social independence. Specifically, Scott wants to attend the movies with his friends and accompany them for a day of skiing next month. Your task is to learn about the resources for the movies and for getting onto the slopes with his friends. Scott has already figured out the transportation situation (he's clearly motivated!), so please just become knowledgeable about the movies and skiing.

Getting Scott to the slopes and the movies with friends.

You might start by finding out the types of accessibility features that are available in some theaters for folks with visual and motor impairments. To do so...

Read about the work that WGBH is doing to make commercial movies in theatres accessible to patrons who are deaf or blind. <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/> and <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/aboutproject.html>. Be sure to watch the Lion King demonstration for a firsthand look at Descriptive Video Service.

Do your best to locate a movie theater in your vicinity that would accommodate Scott and his friends and find out some of the challenges they might face. <http://www.amctheatres.com/SFF/> or <http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2010/11/19/amc-accessible-seating/11324/>

Then, help Scott prepare for the day at the slopes. <http://www.dsusa.org/links-drsr-links.html>

You'll find the links above to get you started, and feel free to search for others, too. Be sure to identify the web links for any additional sites you find to be particularly helpful.

Describe to us what you have learned that will benefit Scott and others with similar desires for fun. Submit your one page description for Scott's recreation to me before Monday.