

National Scout Jamboree for Special Education Students: A Venue of Integration and Exchange, Demonstrating Love without Hindrance

(Photo and Article by Hu Hong-sian, Division of Indigenous People and Special Education)



K-12 EA of MOE held a four-day-three-night Integrated Education Jamboree for special education students at Hsinhua campus of The Affiliated Hearing Impaired School of National University of Tainan (referred to as AHIS of NUTN). More than 200 disabled students from 18 special education schools around the country participated in this event.

AHIS of NUTN, upholding the spirit of love without hindrance, as well as integration and exchange, prepared for this national jamboree for special education students since April. AHIS of NUTN extended invitations to senior high and vocational high school students, and scout groups, recruiting more than 200 volunteers to assist those disabled students in joining in this event. Each group was arranged with a volunteer scouter to facilitate mutual understanding, thereby materializing the spirit of integrated education.

This scout jamboree, co-organized by Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei, and The Affiliated Senior High School of National University of Tainan. In addition to materializing integrated education, this event also incorporated such

edutainment activities as Special Olympics sports (e.g., soccer and basketball), scout tournaments, wild explorations, and a variety of camping activities, e.g., campsite construction, simple construction projects, and bonfire night. Each scout group prepared a wonderful repertoire, demonstrating special education students' vigor of youth. Activities that highlighted local features (e.g., a visit to Chimei Museum and National Museum of Taiwan History) and exploration center activities that created esprit de corp were also added into the itinerary in to materialize scout spirit and capture the elegance of the Greater Tainan, , thereby enabling special education students from all over the country to have a diversity of life experiences.

"Opportunity is the fundamental of education," said Guan Jhih-ming, Principal of AHIS of NUTN. The intention of holding this integrated education jamboree was to provide disabled students with an opportunity to pursue activity that was once the privilege of general students. In other words, everything that a general student do in camping, such as building tents, cloth and shoes racks, and boiling water, so as disabled students. Not feeling withdrawn from the crowd because of disabilities helped building up confidence as well as integrating into the society.