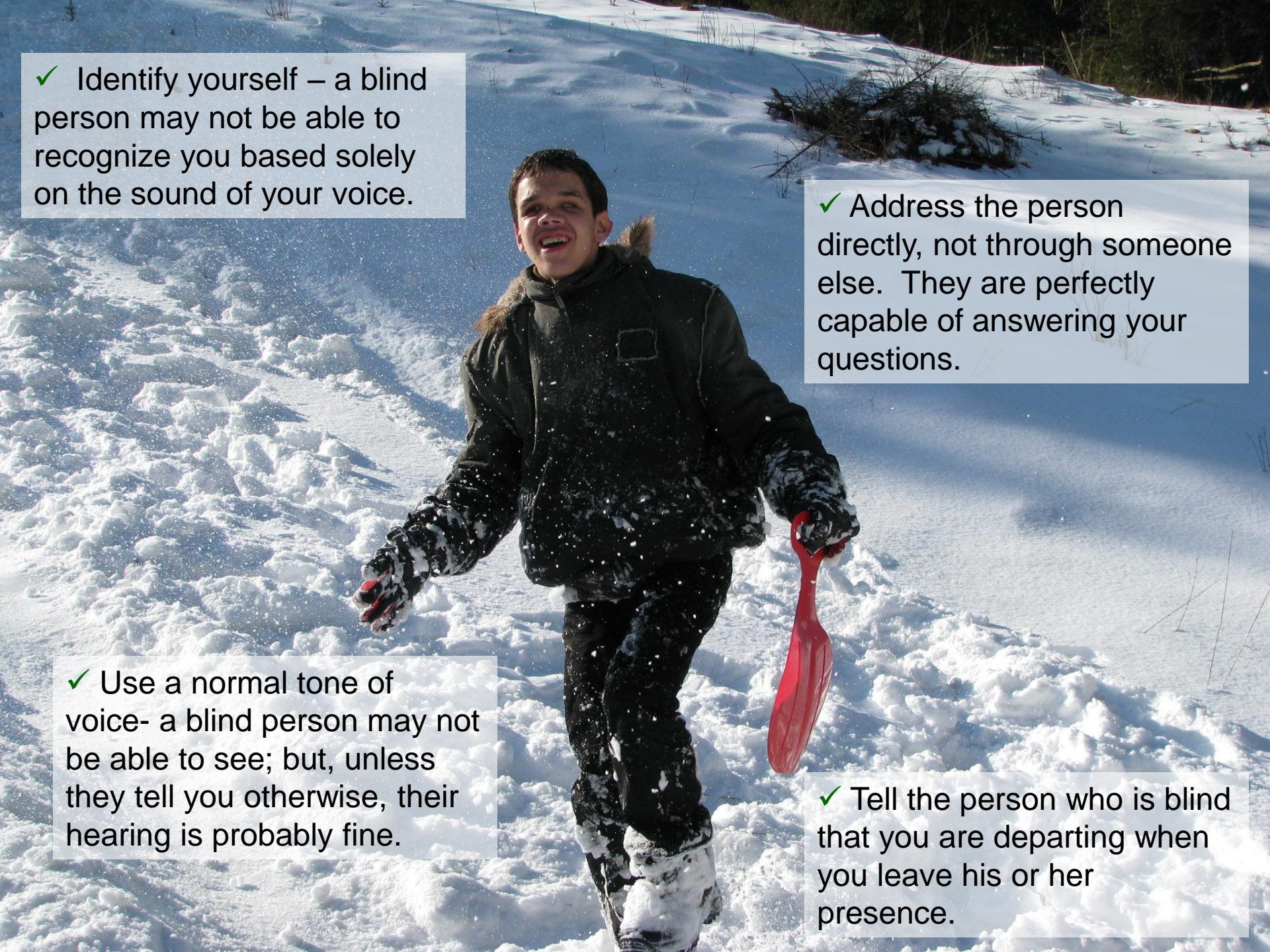


**What do I do
if I meet a
person with a
visual
impairment??**





✓ Identify yourself – a blind person may not be able to recognize you based solely on the sound of your voice.

✓ Address the person directly, not through someone else. They are perfectly capable of answering your questions.

✓ Use a normal tone of voice- a blind person may not be able to see; but, unless they tell you otherwise, their hearing is probably fine.

✓ Tell the person who is blind that you are departing when you leave his or her presence.



✓ Remember that they are individuals who think, feel, make decisions, have strengths and weaknesses and are just like anyone else!

✓ Don't avoid using words such as "see", "look", "watch", "blind", or "read".

✓ Most people who are blind are not offended by these words and use them in their own speech.

✓ People with visual impairments do the same things as you, but may simply use different techniques.

✓ Blindness does not mean that a person 'sees black'.

✓ A person with a visual impairment may have some remaining vision, the ability to see shadows and light, or anything in between.

✓ Use clear descriptions rather than pointing or gesturing.

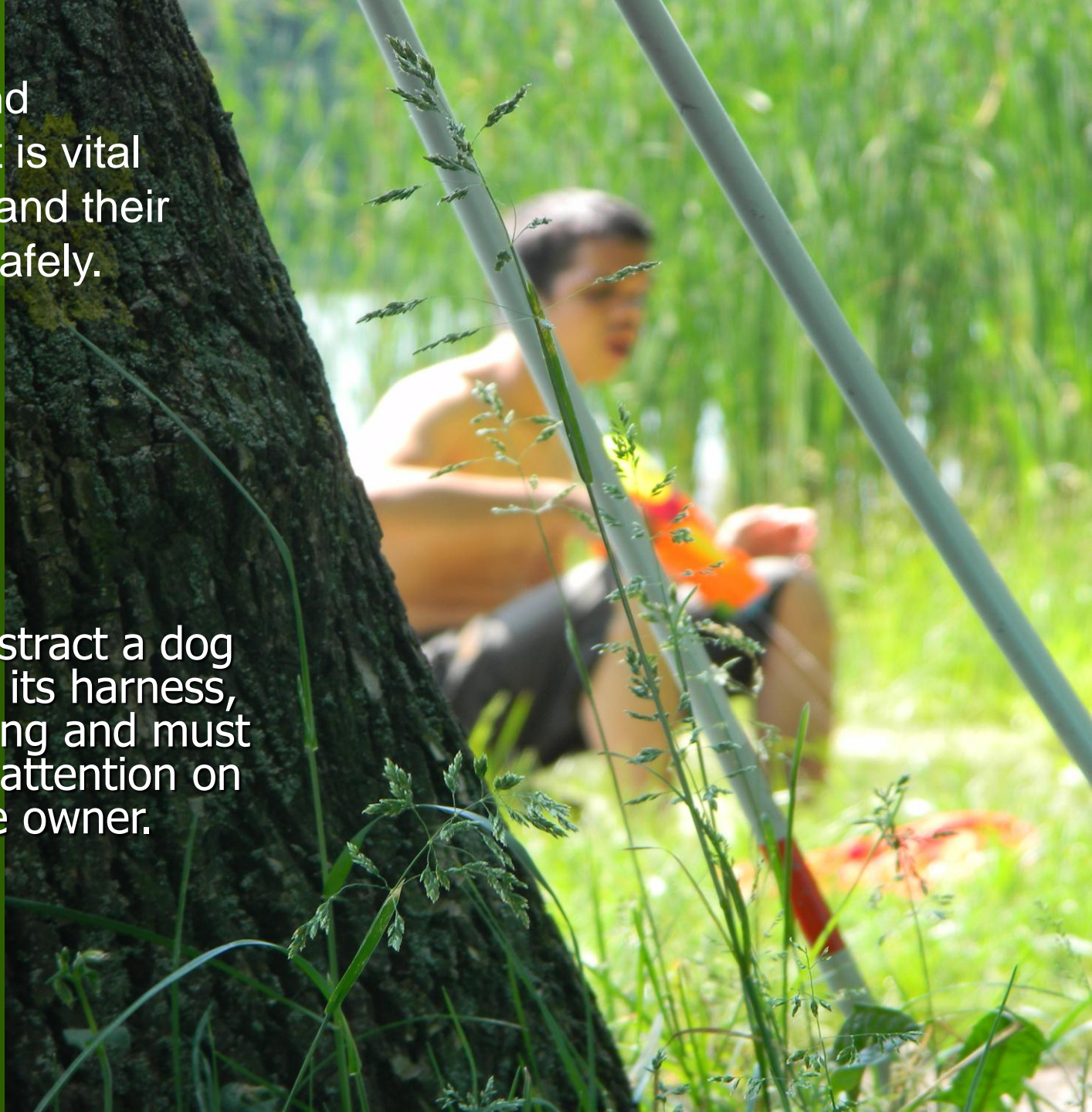
✓ Saying 'to the right of the door' will be more useful than using general phrases such as "over there".



✓ When addressing a blind person, touch them on the arm or use their name - this lets them know you are speaking to them and not someone else in the room.

✓ Respect a blind person's cane: it is vital to their security and their ability to move safely.

✓ Do not pet or distract a dog guide – while in its harness, the dog is working and must maintain its full attention on the needs of the owner.



A photograph of two children walking on a paved path in a park. On the left, a young boy in a light blue hoodie and blue pants is walking. On the right, a young girl in a dark blue jacket and green pants is walking. A large, light blue speech bubble is overlaid in the center of the image, containing text about guide dogs and sighted guides. The background shows trees and a fence.

DON'T grab my arm if you want to help me.

I may use a long white cane or guide dog to walk independently

- or -

I may ask to take **your** arm so that you may assist me as my guide.

This is called "**sighted guide**".