



National Aquatics Task Force

National Outdoor Programs Department

Pat Noack
National Aquatics Task Force Chairman

Robert Kolb
Senior Outdoor Programs Experience Specialist

Frank Reigelman
Team Lead - Outdoor Programs/Properties

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Direct information or inquiries regarding this newsletter or the Aquatics Task Force to: terrells@indy.rr.com



NEW PADDLE CRAFT SAFETY MODULES

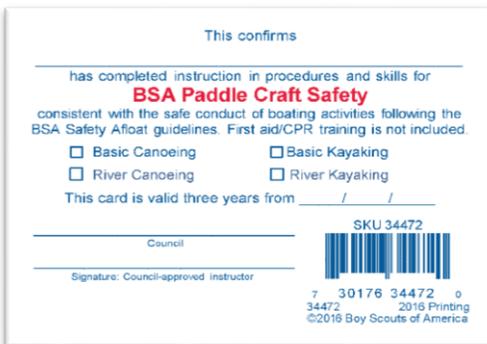
Safety Afloat expects those supervising Scout boating activities to have knowledge and skills sufficient to conduct the programs safely. Previous Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety courses provide appropriate training for canoeing or kayaking excursions on flat water. Two new modules extend the training to river environments.

The previous courses are now labeled “basic” courses and are prerequisites for the new “river” courses. The ACA/BSA video, Reading the Rhythms of Rivers and Rapids, alerts participants to a wide range of moving water and whitewater features. However, there is no substitute for on-water experience. Therefore, the bulk of the training takes place on a river.

Both course and instructor requirements are found in the updated Paddle Craft Safety Instructor Guide, edition 3, found online at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics/forms.aspx

Councils following those guidelines may now authorize courses in the new modules. BSA National supply has updated patch segments and completion cards. Requirements will be added to the Aquatics Supervision text when it is next revised.

Readers of this newsletter who conduct the new courses are encouraged to provide feedback on how the courses can be improved. Happy Paddling!





SCOUT CAMP SWIMMING PROGRAMS: UPDATE ON CDC MODEL AQUATIC HEALTH CODE

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a model aquatic health code (MAHC) for swimming pool construction and operation in the autumn of 2014. The intent was to foster standardized state and local regulations to improve swimmer safety and was supported by state regulators and the industry.

The state of New Mexico recently became the first state to adopt the code. As more states embrace all or part of the code, the following items, among others, will impact council-operated swimming facilities:

- 1. A certified pool operator will be needed for pools. This is already a standard feature in many state codes and that function is typically assigned to camp rangers.**
- 2. Lifeguards for swimming activities will not only need current professional lifeguard certification, but camps will be required to test their abilities, provide pre-camp, site-specific training, provide in-service training, and keep records of all such training for three years. That will impact time needed prior to or during staff training sessions. Currently, many “staff training weeks” may not allocate sufficient time for aquatics staff training under these rules.**
- 3. Camps will also be responsible for equipping lifeguards with standard equipment, including a rescue tube, uniform, sun protection, personal protective equipment (PPE, including a CPR mask and gloves), and polarized sunglasses. Such equipment is needed for training as well as during surveillance. That is one reason participants in National Camp School (NCS) aquatics sections in 2017 will be issued personal PPE during training.**
- 4. Lifeguards must be directed by supervisors with additional training and experience. The requirement for at least one season of previous experience as a lifeguard will have implications for recruiting and training camp aquatics staff, including camp aquatics directors. Currently, NCS training includes lifeguard supervision curricula, but does not have an experience prerequisite.**

The MAHC is focused on swimming pools. However, the requirements for pool lifeguards will impact the standard of care expected of lifeguards in all settings. Therefore, councils that operate camps with swimming activities in lakes will also need to stay up-to-date on the code.

The National Office helps councils stay current with evolving standards through NCS and NCAP programs, but councils still need to make sure they follow current codes within their states. That is particularly important in states, such as New Mexico, that are ahead of the curve.

There is a change process to update the MAHC every two years. There were no changes that significantly impacted items of interest to most Scout camps in the 2016 revision, and none are expected in 2018.





SUMMERTIME AQUATICS FUN FOR CUBS AND WEBELOS

Now is the perfect time for you and your Local Aquatics Committee to begin to work with local packs and summer camp and day camp staffs to prepare to offer your Cubs and Webelos an outstanding summer aquatics experience.

Remember that the youth of Cub and Webelos ages are ready and excited to learn the basic aquatics skills and safety to better enjoy their aquatics experiences now and also so they transition more easily to scout aquatics programs.

There are two simple things you and your Local Aquatics Committee can do now to help. First, go out and meet with packs and give a fun presentation about Cub and Webelos aquatics and introduce them to the concept of safe swim areas, ability groups and the buddy system. Take along buddy tags and a mobile buddy board to show them these key waterfront tools and how they are used.

Second, work with camp leadership to explain the Cub and Webelos aquatics opportunities and discuss with them effective, fun ways to present the various elective Adventures to the Cubs and Webelos at their summer resident and day camps. Better yet, offer specific training to the staffs.

Listed below are the various Aquatics Elective Adventures for Cubs and Webelos. Note that the requirements for the electives were modified as of 2017 with the most recent requirements shown to the right. The Adventures with a Star have been modified since 2016.

If you have questions about Cub/Webelos Aquatics please contact Jay Fox (jayfox8x@gmail.com).



Tiger Elective Adventure: Floats and Boats

Complete Requirements 1-4 plus at least one other.

REQUIREMENT 1. With your den, say the SCOUT water safety chant.
 REQUIREMENT 2. With your den, talk about why it's important to have a buddy and then play the buddy game.
 REQUIREMENT 3. Show how to safely help someone who needs assistance in the water, without having to enter the water yourself.
 REQUIREMENT 4. Show how to enter the water safely, blow your breath out under the water, and do a prone glide.
 REQUIREMENT 5. Identify five different types of boats.
 REQUIREMENT 6. Build a boat from recycled materials, and float it on the water.
 REQUIREMENT 7. Show that you can put on and fasten a life jacket correctly.

Wolf Elective Adventure

Spirit of Water Complete the following Requirements

REQUIREMENT 1. Discuss how the water in your community can become polluted.
 REQUIREMENT 2. Explain one way that you can help conserve water in your home.
 REQUIREMENT 3. Explain to your den leader why swimming is good exercise.
 REQUIREMENT 4. Explain the safety rules that you need to follow before participating in swimming or boating.
 REQUIREMENT 5. Visit a local pool or public swimming area with your family or Wolf den. With qualified supervision, jump into water that is at least chest-high, and swim 25 feet or more.

Bear Elective Adventure: Salmon Run

Complete requirements 1-4 and two others.

REQUIREMENT 1. Explain the importance of response personnel or lifeguards in a swimming area. Tell how the buddy system works and why it is important.
 REQUIREMENT 2. Visit a local pool or swimming area with your den or family. Go swimming or take a swimming lesson.
 REQUIREMENT 3. Explain the safety rules that you need to follow before participating in boating.
 REQUIREMENT 4. Identify the safety equipment needed when going boating.
 REQUIREMENT 5. Demonstrate correct rowing or paddling form. Explain how rowing and canoeing are good exercise.
 REQUIREMENT 6. Show how to do both a reach rescue and a throw rescue.
 REQUIREMENT 7. Demonstrate the front crawl swim stroke to your den or family.
 REQUIREMENT 8. Name the three swimming ability groups for the Boy Scouts of America.
 REQUIREMENT 9. Earn the BSA beginner swim classification.

Webelos /AOL Elective Adventure: Aquanaut

Complete Requirements 1-4 and at least two others.

1. State the safety precautions you need to take before doing any water activity.
2. Discuss the importance of learning the skills you need to know before going boating.
3. Explain the meaning of "order of rescue" and demonstrate the reach and throw rescue techniques from land.
4. Attempt the BSA swimmer test.
5. Demonstrate the precautions you must take before attempting to dive headfirst into the water, and attempt a front surface dive.
6. Learn and demonstrate two of the following strokes: crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, or elementary backstroke.
7. Invite a current or former lifeguard, or member of a rescue squad, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, or other armed forces branch who has had swimming and rescue training to your den meeting. Find out what training and other experiences this person has had.
8. Demonstrate how to correctly fasten a life jacket that is the right size for you. Jump into water over your head. Swim 25 feet wearing the life jacket. Get out of the water, remove the life jacket, and hang it where it will dry.
9. If you are a qualified swimmer, select a paddle of the proper size, and paddle a canoe with an adult's supervision.



ACA STATE DIRECTOR : LOCAL PADDLESPORTS PARTNER

If your Council, District, summer camp or Troop is looking for local resources for paddlesports, the ACA's State Director program might be able to provide you with a liaison.

Only in it's third year, the volunteer ACA State Directors and their Executive Councils are focused on a range of paddlesports outreach initiatives in their state.



Reach out to your ACA State Director to find additional resources to enhance your canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or stand up paddleboard programs. For more information, please visit:

www.americancanoe.org/StateDirector



2017 NATIONAL JAMBOREE STAFFING



Time is getting short to get your staff registration in for the 2017 BSA National Jamboree. We are still in need of staff in all the aquatics areas: Water Reality, Kayaking, Standup Paddle boarding, and Scuba.



We can use your help even if you don't have the particular specialized skills. We provide on-the-job training!



Be a part of this historic Scouting event. If time or cost an issue, there are half-Jamboree shifts available at half the regular staff registration rate.



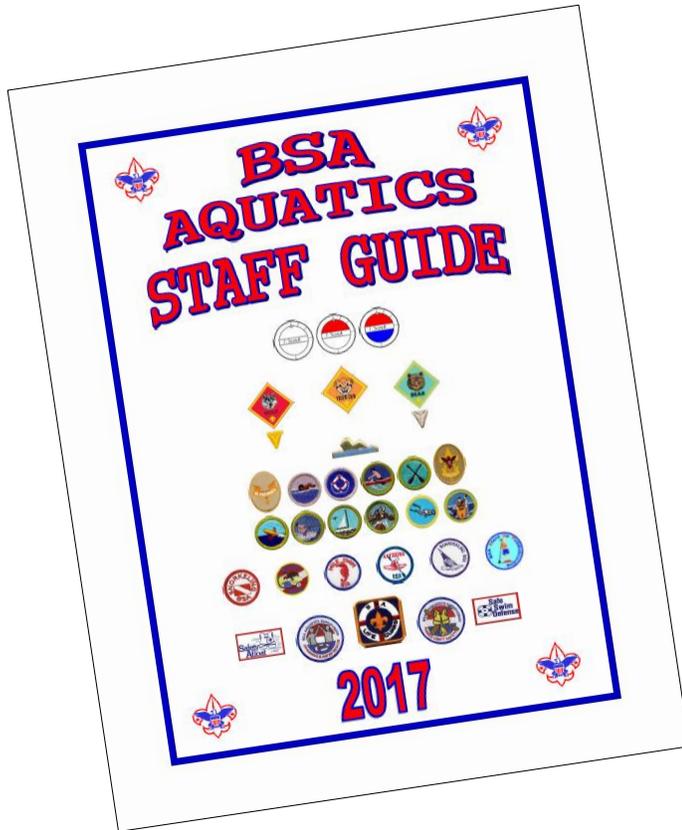
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Register today at www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers





AQUATICS RESOURCE: 2017 AQUATICS STAFF GUIDE



The *BSA Aquatics Staff Guide* was developed by the National Aquatics Task Force to serve as a guide to the members of aquatic staffs in summer camp. It was intended to be a guide for the 16 – 20 year old staff member.

Last year a unit was added to give guidance to the Aquatic Director. (Note: Section V, *Camp Program and Property Management* is no longer being maintained and updated by the National Task Force. It should, therefore, not be considered as a current aquatic resource).

The Aquatics Staff Guide is updated annually based on input from the field. If you have recommendations for the guide send them to terrells@indy.rr.com

Future editions of the Staff Guide will include sample Emergency Action Plans, Merit Badge Syllabi and Merit Badge Checklists. If you have any of these to share send them along.

Hopefully all councils are already using this great resource in your council camp programs.

The 2017 BSA Aquatics Staff Guide is available on-line at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics/forms.aspx>