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BSA VIRTUAL NATIONAL AQUATICS CONFERENCE 2020

BSA Aquatics Activity Awards September 2020



Mike Meenehan

BSA National Aquatics Subcommittee

Aquatics Award Overview



BSA VIRTUAL NATIONAL AQUATICS CONFERENCE 2020



- National BSA awards
- Non-advancement, experiential
 - Available to Scouts BSA aged and above (youth and adults)
- Aquatics Supervision is your primary reference
 - Contains requirements and applications for all awards
 - Instructional material for Mile Swim BSA, Snorkeling BSA, Kayaking BSA, Boardsailing BSA, BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding, and Whitewater Rafting BSA
 - Scuba BSA uses Scuba instructor materials
- Council approval is needed for all counselors



Mile Swim BSA



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- Requirements/application in Aquatics Supervision
- Is more than just swimming one mile
- Offered at many resident camps
- Can be done in open water or pool
- Counselors: Adults trained as a BSA Aquatics Instructor, a Red Cross Water Safety Instructor, or a YMCA Swim Instructor are good candidates. Swim coaches with a Scouting background are also appropriate. All counselors must have current Safe Swim Defense training





Kayaking BSA



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- Introduces participants to popular sport of kayaking
- Covers safety and introductory skills
- Precursor to Kayaking Merit Badge
- Counselors: All counselors must be trained in Safety Afloat. Any person with current training as a BSA Aquatics Instructor, a BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety kayak instructor or as a kayak instructor by the American Canoe Association may serve as a counselor for this award with the approval of the local council. A person with similar experience in kayaking skills, safety, and instruction may also serve as a counselor with council approval.



Snorkeling BSA



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- Introduction to the underwater world
- Requires mask, fins and snorkel
- Dive Shops can easily offer this program with/for you
- Counselors: All counselors must have current Safe Swim Defense training and council approval. Anyone currently trained as a BSA Aquatics Instructor or certified as a snorkeling instructor by a BSA recognized scuba training agency may serve as a counselor for the Snorkeling BSA award. Councils may also approve counselors who have been trained and are supervised by those with the previously listed credentials.





Scuba BSA

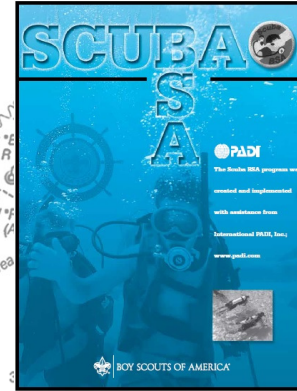


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- Requirements for Scuba BSA are in BSA Aquatics Supervision, but both the participant and the instructor need to review the additional material found in the Scuba BSA brochure, No. 430-515

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-515.pdf>

- Partner with local Dive Shop for this program



- Counselors: Counselors for Scuba BSA must hold current scuba instructor certification from PADI, NAUI, SSI, or RSTC member organizations. Instruction must comply with RSTC standards for introductory scuba experiences.





BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding

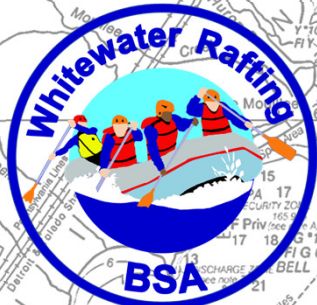


- Introduction to basic SUP skills

- www.americancanoe.org

- Counselors: All counselors must be trained in Safety Afloat and have council approval. Any person with current training as a BSA Aquatics Instructor or as a SUP instructor by the American Canoe Association, or a person with similar experience in SUP skills, safety, and instruction may serve as a counselor.





Whitewater Rafting BSA

- BSA's newest Aquatics Activity Award
- Introduced for 2017 National Scout Jamboree
- Requirements can be met on most whitewater rafting trips (with prior coordination)
- Counselors: Any adult leader, approved by the council, who is trained in Safety Afloat and can personally verify that all instruction and skill completions were directly supervised by a professionally trained or licensed rafting guide may serve as a counselor for this award.





Boardsailing BSA

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- BSA's most unique Aquatics Activity Award
- Introduction to boardsailing/sailboarding/windsurfing
- Sport was popular in late 70s and 80s
- Requires specialized equipment
- Counselors: All counselors must be trained in Safety Afloat and have council approval. Any person recognized as a boardsailing instructor by US Windsurfing or US Sailing, or someone with similar experience in boardsailing skills, safety, and instruction, may serve as a counselor for this award.

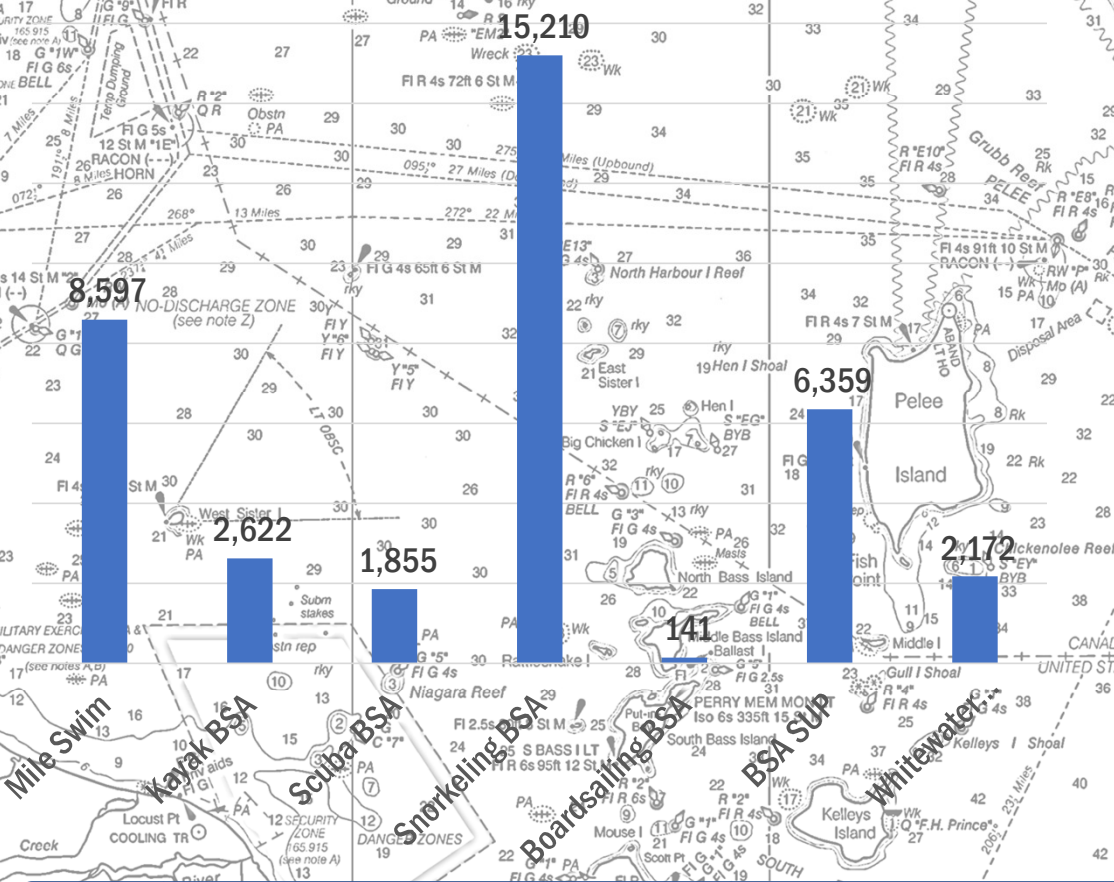




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2019 Aquatics Award Popularity

36,956 awards in 2019



Only 1 in out of every 44 eligible BSA members (youth and adult) earned a BSA Aquatics Award in 2019



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BSA Aquatics Subcommittee Aquatics Activity Awards



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Poll

How many BSA Aquatics Awards currently are available?

- a) 5
- b) 7
- c) 9

Who approves BSA Aquatics Award Counselors?

- a) The Unit
- b) The District
- c) The Council
- d) BSA National