



# BSA VIRTUAL NATIONAL AQUATICS CONFERENCE 2020

## Effective Aquatic Committees A moderated discussion

# What are Council Aquatic Committees?

- The Council Aquatics Committee has overall responsibility for the local council's aquatics activities in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Exploring.
- Within the local council organization, the aquatics committee reports to either the vice president of program or to the vice president of health and safety.
- The aquatics committee may be a separate committee or subcommittee within the program or health and safety committee.



# Who should be part of the Aquatics Committee?

- Experienced Scouters with a background in aquatics
- Aquatics specialists interested in becoming involved in the Scouting program.
- The committee should include at least one individual with a current National Camping School Aquatics Instructor, BSA training card.
- Specialists for the type of aquatics activities prevalent in the local council (e.g., snorkeling/scuba, canoe tripping, sailing, whitewater, crew rowing, waterskiing, Sea Scouts, etc.).
- Select committee members should either be members of or liaisons to other council committees that touch the aquatics committee's areas of responsibility, including training, advancement, health and safety, camping, etc.
- Summer camp aquatics directors: ex-officio members during the term of their employment and afterward encouraged to become full-time, year-round volunteer members.



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# What are the Aquatic Committees Responsibilities?

• The aquatic committee's main responsibilities include the following year-round activities tailored to the local council's aquatic activities and opportunities:

**Training**—Work with the council training committee to provide aquatic training for adults and youth.

• **Program**—Provide and promote a broad array of basic and high-adventure swimming and boating activities to support all parts of the Scouting program.

**Advancement**—Provide advancement opportunities for youth.

**Safety**—Actively assess safe operation of council- and district-led aquatic activities, including summer camp, and promote aquatic safety at the unit level.

• **Attraction, Development, and Retention of Aquatics Leadership**—A primary role of the committee is attracting, developing, and retaining qualified aquatics leadership for the training, program, advancement, and safety activities above. This includes summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatic activities and should include succession planning for key roles.

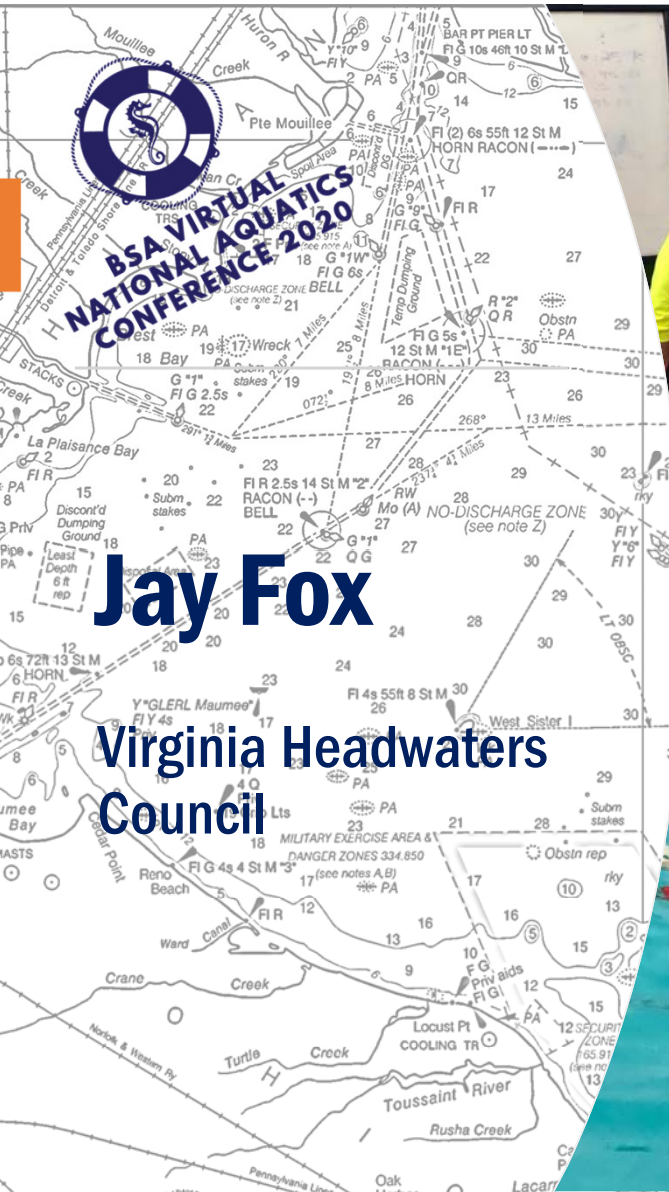


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# Ask the Panel!

Send in your questions in the Q&A feature during this presentation and we will ask them of the panel.





Jay Fox

Virginia Headwaters  
Council

# Virginia Headwaters AQ Committee Overview

## Background

- The Aquatics Committee provides a year-round program focusing on training, support, and advancement
- Active recruitment for committee at all aquatics events
- Reports to the VP for Program in the council
- Active for over 16 years
- Developed and administer the "Neptune Society" award For BSA Aquatics accomplishment

## Camp Shenandoah

- Located in Blue Ridge Mountains; Established 78 years ago
- Traditional "lake front" Scout waterfront
- Typical BSA aquatics activities on Lake Hope – canoeing, kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding, rowing, iceberg and rocker and motorboating



# Virginia Headwaters AQ Committee Overview

## Key Functions

- Provides programming, training and mentorship to summer camp staff
- Holds annual “Winter Swim” for Cubs, Webelos and Scouts offerings
- Swimming/Lifesaving merit badges, Cub electives, Rank Advancement and SCUBA BSA
- Conducts two additional MB sessions; in spring and summer and include boating activities
- Provides Aquatics Supervision training. Canoe trek training and preparation
- Pre-camp swim checks; pre-high adventure base swim checks and preparation
- Specialized support for those youth who require additional help with rank advancement
- Offers ARC/BSA Lifeguard to summer camp staff and Scouts who will be working at local pools
- Represented on Camping and Properties Committees and the Executive Board



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# NFC Overview

## St John's River Base at Echockotee

- Located on Doctors Lake (Inlet), off of the St. John's River, opened in 1923
- Aquatics focus, year-round program
- Aquatics Camp – summer day program, open to scouts and community
- Motorboat and sailing docks, plus canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing and swimming (pool)

## Camp Shands

- Located in Hawthorne, FL, opened in 1967
- Aquatics activities on Lake Osborne – canoeing, kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding, log rolling, rowing, fishing
- Aquatics Center – pool, 5 covered pavilions with gas grills, splash pad, two water slides (each over 110 feet in length), state-of-the-art filtration system, bathrooms with showers
- Pool designed with swimming lanes and SCUBA instruction in mind
- Winter Blast, year-round program



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# NFC Aquatics Committee Structure



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- Reports to the Outdoor Program Director, which reports to the VP of Program for council
- Members include Aquatics Instructors, aquatics merit badge counselors, lifeguards, other interested parties
- Roles and responsibilities
  - Build aquatics calendar/drive aquatics MB training outside of summer camps/provide instructors
  - Support units in need of training – e.g., Cub Scout and Scout Advancement, Swimming and Water Rescue/Paddle Craft Safety, etc.
  - Identify overall needs of council and support district and council aquatics activities (e.g., drive/assist with event planning, provide lifeguards, give swim tests. etc.) – Aquatics Day, Winter Blast, Council and District Camporees, Special Needs Camporee
  - Support unit activities
  - Provide guidance as to aquatics safety standards; review NCAP standards
  - Review condition of aquatics equipment and identify needs

# When Things Are Not As Planned

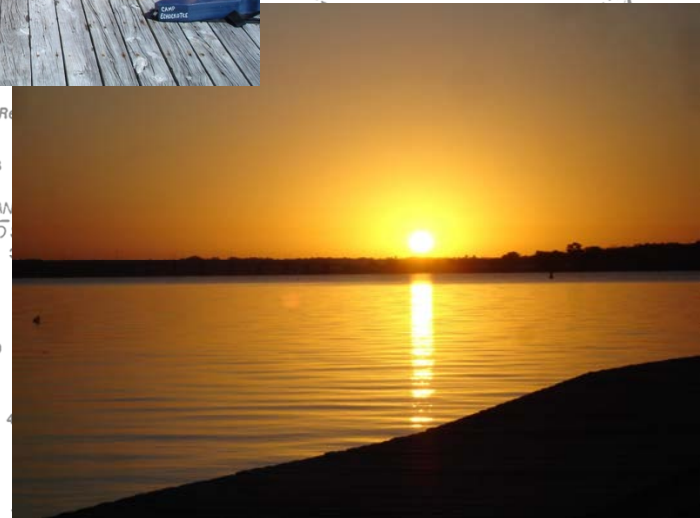
(embrace the concept that things are cyclical)

- **Rebuild Mode**
- **Build relationships**
- **Recruit new members**
- **Increase number of members who have attended NCS**
- **Revitalize the program – create energy**
- **Promote activities and events – PLAN – reduce number of last-minute changes or additions to calendar**
- **Ensure AQ committee meets regularly and with purpose – communicate with members between meetings – keep them updated**
- **Seek input from existing members and “outsiders” – and USE THEIR IDEAS – recognize the value all provide**
- **Delegate**
- **SHARE information**
- **Conduct surveys – don’t assume you know what is needed!**
- **Position the committee as providing value – develop respect**



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# What Keeps Us Going





# NCAC Overview

- Located in Northeast Region BSA
- District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, US Virgin Islands
- Large Council
  - App. 40,000 youth, 20,000 adults (mostly Type A)
- Large camp property (Goshen SR) with 6 lake waterfronts
- 4 hours from Council
- Close-in camp (Camp Snyder) with lake and outdoor swimming pool
- 1 week volunteer resident camp (Camp Airy)
- Camp Wall on St. Croix USVI
- Aquatics Committee established in 2008



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NCAC  
Aquatics  
Committee

**NCAC Aquatics Committee**

The National Area Council's Aquatics Committee enhances local aquatics activities by being the center of effort for recreational and instructional programs in, on and under the water. The goal of the committee is to further the aims of scouting at the unit, district and council levels through safe, enjoyable aquatics programming. Key activities include training for both youth and adults, aquatics programming, advancement, and safety. A primary role is attracting, developing and retaining qualified leadership to support those activities. The committee consists of volunteer specialists who work closely with other NCAC committees that have joint aquatics responsibilities.

For more information, please visit the Aquatics Committee webpage at [www.ncacsc.org/aquatics](http://www.ncacsc.org/aquatics)

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59 NA  
CO  
Aquatics Committee Activities

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and direct expenses activities, including transport (air) and personnel expenses  
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AGE ZONE (see Z)

Landing Ground Depth 35 feet rep

# Training

- Aquatics Supervision courses (Swimming and Water Rescue, Paddle Craft Safety Basic & River)
- Canoe Merit Badge Counselor training (PCS extension)
- Conduct annual BSA Lifeguard (LG) training

# Program

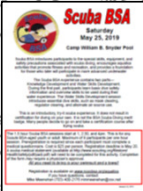
- BSA aquatic awards
- American Red Cross (ARC)
- Scuba activities
- Camp Snyder aquatics
- Mile Swim BSA



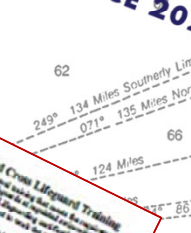
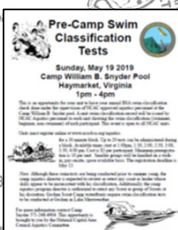
# Dynamic and Relevant Program



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**2019 Aquatics Programs**

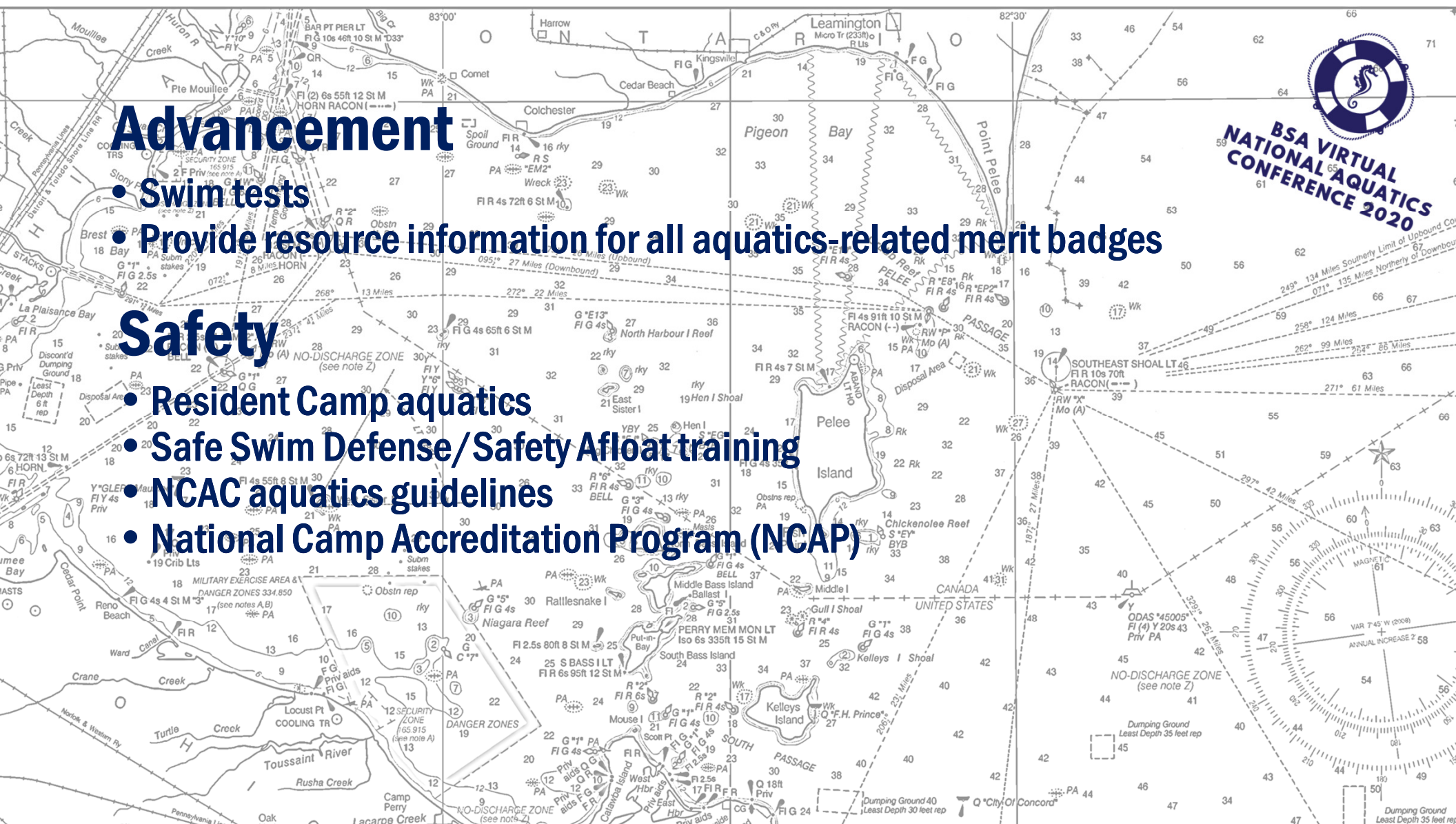


# Advancement

- Swim tests
- Provide resource information for all aquatics-related merit badges

# Safety

- Resident Camp aquatics
- Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat training
- NCAC aquatics guidelines
- National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP)



# Administrivia

- Annual aquatics activity plan w/budget
- Aquatics Committee membership
- Web pages
- Promote Aquatics/NCAC Aquatics Committee
- Quarterly NCAC Scouter Digest
- Be aquatic experts for NCAC
- Coordinate/liaise with other NCAC Committees
- Report regularly
- Hold quarterly AC meetings
- Promote National Camp School Aquatics Instructor training
- Annual evaluation of progress towards goals, set stretch goals



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# AQUATICS COMMITTEE

*For all your needs in, on and under the water*

[ncacbsa.org/aquatics](http://ncacbsa.org/aquatics)



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# Crackerbarrel – Session 5



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• Break out room #1 – Aquatics Staff Guide



• Break out room #2 – Effective Aquatic Committees



• Break out room #3 – Pool Games: Sharing Ideas



• Break out room #4 – General get together and discussion

