Since the inception of Scouting, learning to swim and engaging in aquatics activities have been core to the program. More than 1.5 million aquatics-related merit badges have been earned by Scouts BSA since 2009. The BSA has also been a leader in promoting and providing training in aquatics safety. For at least 80 years, checklists have been in place to make sure those aquatic experiences are positive ones. Back in the 1940s there was the seven-defense method, a precursor to today’s Safe Swim Defense.

In this BSA Safety Moment we’ll learn about age-appropriate aquatic activities. More advanced training, such as Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense, can be found at Scouting.org.

RESOURCES

- Aquatics Resources
- Aquatics Supervision: A leader’s guide to youth swimming and boating activities
- Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Rowing, Scuba Diving, Small-Boat Sailing, Swimming, Water Sports, and Whitewater merit badge pamphlets