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## **NATIONAL JAMBOREE 2023**

The National Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of lifetime! It's 360-degrees of fun, friends and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenges you to try things you never thought you could.



## **As A Member of the Jamboree Service Team - You Deliver the Jamboree Experience!**



What makes a jamboree awesome? What is the key to a world-class, life changing experience? *It's you.* If you love Scouting and being part of a high functioning team that delivers amazing experiences, then we want you on the 2023 National Jamboree Service Team. The 2023 Jamboree is all about moving Scouting forward and, whatever your skillset, we need you to deliver the promise of this historic event.

Aquatics needs you to serve on staff and be part of this incredible experience! At the 2023 Jamboree, we will offer Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, and Water Reality (fabulous aquatics course).



Register Now!!! <https://jamboree.scouting.org>



## **AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

ACA is finalizing a five-year strategic plan that explicitly recognizes the importance of youth programs and Scouting. A dedicated Scout and Sea Scout section has been added to our website. These sections will encourage our instructors to work with Scouts and will provide links to Scouting websites.

ACA's membership recently approved new bylaws that support our position as the Olympic and Paralympic National Governing Body for paddle sports. Subsequently, ACA was approved as the NGB by the USOPC for four more years. This has already led to increased youth opportunities which should grow as we approach the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.



As part of our bylaw changes, ACA has made an increased commitment to reaching populations that are under-represented in the paddling community. We've run four community leadership programs, certifying about 30 people of color, and are seeking funding for additional programs. This creates an opportunity for Scouting programs to work with ACA to offer joint leadership training.

In addition, ACA has created a state-level and multi-state level cadre of volunteers who can serve as points of contact. More information regarding the program may be found at <https://americancanoe.org/community/about-us/regions-and-affiliated-clubs-council/>.



ACA's educational programs were recently reviewed by an outside education group. In response to their feedback, we're working on additional programs that focus more on trip leading and mentorship than formal instruction. We believe these additional programs will provide more training pathways for Scouts, clubs and other community groups. As part of this work, ACA is also working on an evidence-based core training program that will teach recognition, prevention and management of common boating problems that lead to boating fatalities.

Finally, ACA continues to offer a free online entry level paddling program, available at <https://americancanoe.org/education/resource-library/paddlesports-online-course/>. We recently received funding to translate the program into Spanish.





## AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFESAVING AWARDS

Help us recognize the people  
who save or sustain lives

Nominate others for national awards  
plus share your own story whenever  
lifesaving skills are used



[LifesavingAwards.org](http://LifesavingAwards.org)

### WHY?

You'll be helping us build our library of [inspiring real-life stories](#) that show the immense payoff of Red Cross safety and preparedness training—arming people with the skills and confidence needed to respond appropriately to sudden emergencies.

### HOW?

Whenever lifesaving skills are used, simply provide a brief description of the event at [LifesavingAwards.org](http://LifesavingAwards.org)

- **Individuals and Teams**  
who applied skills learned in a Red Cross Training Class can be nominated for our highest award—the *Certificate of Merit*—signed by the President of the United States.
- **Professional Responders**  
including healthcare workers can be nominated for a *Certificate of Merit* for lifesaving actions performed while off duty, or a *Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders* for extraordinary service provided individually or as a team as part of their employment.
- **Other Lifesavers**  
who are not Red Cross trained but exemplify our mission of preventing and alleviating suffering in the face of emergencies can be nominated for a *Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action*.



WE'RE COUNTING ON **YOU** TO HELP US INSPIRE OTHERS...

Nominate, share stories, and learn more  
at [LifesavingAwards.org](http://LifesavingAwards.org)

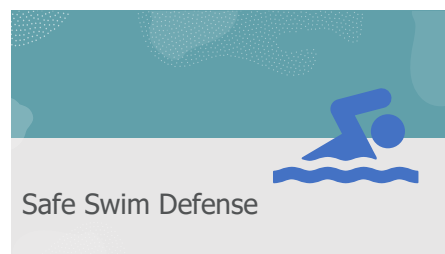


**American Red Cross**  
Training Services



## **SAFE SWIM DEFENSE AND SAFETY AFLOAT**

Since the inception of Scouting, learning to swim and engaging in aquatics activities have been core to the program. Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training ensure that adult leaders are prepared to facilitate safe swimming and boating programs.



In addition to the online versions available at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) updated in 2022, Scouting U and the National Aquatics Subcommittee have updated in-person facilitation materials. You may share this material with those responsible for in-person facilitated training. It is critical that any training offered be recorded based on attendance for the full in-person course in Akela and that attendance logs be kept at the council level. The training codes are SSD for Safe Swim Defense and SA for Safety Afloat. These courses are not designed to be taught over zoom or other virtual platforms.



**Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training should only be offered in-person in locations where online training may not be available, such as summer camp. Online Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training is the preferred delivery method via [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org).**

Please note: The in-person training materials are NOT intended for broad distribution and are for use specifically by training teams who are qualified to teach this course. Please do not post on publicly facing websites. This release supersedes all previous versions of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat materials. Outdated materials cannot be used.

The links below will allow for immediate download.



### **Safe Swim Defense**

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/ppt/Safe-Swim-Defense.pptx>

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/doc/Safe-Swim-Defense-FG.docx>

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/doc/Safe-Swim-Defense-Quiz.docx>

### **Safety Afloat**

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/Safety-Afloat/Safety%20Afloat.pptx>

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/Safety-Afloat/Safety%20Afloat%20FG.pdf>

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/Safety-Afloat/Safety%20Afloat%20Quiz.pdf>

## **SPECIAL NEEDS AND AQUATICS**



Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has included fully participating members with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. The Boy Scout Handbook exists in Braille editions. Merit badge pamphlets have been recorded on audio for Scouts who are blind. Closed caption training videos have been produced for Scouts who are deaf. In 1965, registration of overage Scouts with intellectual or developmental disabilities became possible - a privilege now extended to many Scouts with disabilities.

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs and disabilities is full participation. Youth with special needs are to be treated and respected like every other member of their unit. They want to participate like other youth - and Scouting provides that opportunity. To ensure we provide the Scouting program successfully to those with disabilities, we have an ongoing process to educate unit leaders how to adapt their methods and how to create healthy, safe, empathetic environments for all of their Scouts, both with and without special needs – **The Inclusion Toolbox**. This also actively encourages inclusion of Scouts with special needs and disabilities into “mainstream” or “traditional” Scout units like Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, STEM Scouts, Sea Scout Ships, and Exploring Posts.

When it comes to specific activities, our goal is to allow a youth with a disability to participate to the maximum extent possible in the same way, place, and time as everyone else. Even when adaptations or accommodations are needed, we want to have everyone sharing the experience together. Youth are often able to do more than is expected of them when they are given a chance.

### **Camp Programs for Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities**

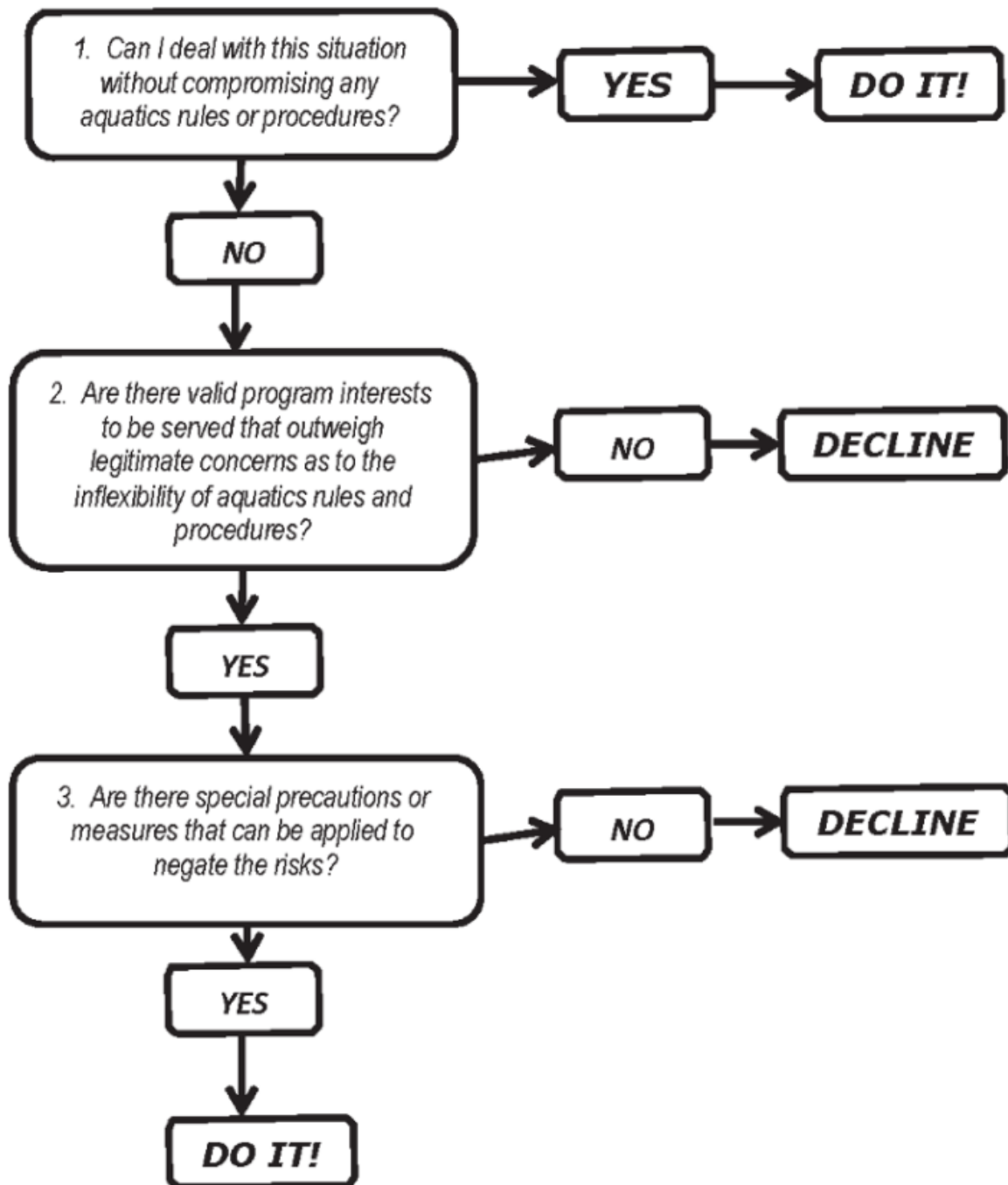
**Opportunities for recreational time in the water are especially important for Scouts with disabilities** so they can enjoy camp, try new things, and cool off on hot days.

The pool and waterfront areas have natural advantages over other camp program areas. The pool area already has hard surfaces and relatively good accessibility. Since life jackets are required for every activity in a natural body of water besides swimming in a controlled area, no extra equipment or planning is required for many Scouts with special needs or disabilities. The swim area staff has the advantage of getting to talk to leaders from every unit and evaluate almost every camper during the swim check process. It is highly recommended that aquatics personnel perform their own swim checks where special needs Scouts are participating, regardless of what documentation may have been supplied by the Scoutmaster. To ensure a scout with special needs does not feel singled out, you can discreetly retest the entire unit.

Key considerations for successful swim and boating programs will include use of flotation devices to assist Scouts to feel comfortable in the water (where not normally required), options

for early start and departure (particularly where a wheelchair or crutches may be in use), shade for mobility equipment, and managing waves and splashing. You will also need to consider special situations, such as Scouts who are blind, deaf and/or are non-verbal, Scouts with physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism.

The general policy objective behind all aquatics rules and procedures is to ensure that the best possible program is delivered in a safe Scouting environment encouraging youth members and their units to participate in aquatics activities. Use the BSA decision tree -





Remember that policy is to serve the program, not the convenience of the Aquatics staff.

The circumstance in which there is no choice but to decline is rare, but if you must decline, be firm, be sympathetic, be courteous, and suggest alternatives. While it may be easier to say no, it's much more satisfying to suggest an alternative that helps the person accomplish much of his or her objective without compromising safety.

As far as possible, anticipate questions and problem situations in advance. Work with your camp management to plan ahead.

When making critical policy decisions, be sure all appropriate persons are involved in the decision making process.

The information provided in this article is just the beginning! Please visit [www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/inclusion-toolbox/](http://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/inclusion-toolbox/) for access to **The Inclusion Toolbox** and additional information regarding how to support special needs Scouts in aquatics.





## **BSA SWIM TEST**



The BSA Swim Classification Test is the foundation for determining individual Scout and Scouter's swimming ability. It is the initial, fundamental step to ensure all those participating in BSA aquatics activities are properly designated as non-swimmers, beginners or swimmers. The swim test is designed to provide consistent assessment of abilities to promote safe swimming and boating environments. Swim tests are required to be given annually, preferably at the beginning of the season.

Swim tests for council activities are conducted following the procedures approved by a council-level committee, preferably the Council Aquatics Committee. In a BSA camp setting, it is very common for BSA lifeguards (or other personnel trained by a BSA Aquatics Instructor) to administer swim tests on the arrival day for units. Swim tests may be conducted by the unit prior to camp. In this case, the swim classification test should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people – BSA Aquatics Instructor, BSA Lifeguard, BSA Swimming and Water Rescue trained volunteers, or other qualified lifeguard, swimming instructor, etc. The swim classification form may be used by the unit to record the results of the swim test.

***Aquatics Supervision*** is the guiding resource for unit leaders as pertains to aquatics policies and procedures. Chapter Five notes that the test administrator must objectively evaluate both the ease of the overall performance and the purpose of each test element. Any conscientious adult who is familiar with basic swimming strokes and who understands and abides by the guidelines can administer the test. Safe Swim Defense must also be followed, and the participant must have a current health form on file with the unit. It is strongly recommended that each unit have a minimum of 1-2 people certified in Swimming and Water Rescue (in addition to lifeguards, if available). This is an excellent course, one day in length, designed to help keep units safe – and focus is placed on how to give a swim classification test.

The swim test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deepwater swimming. The various components of the test evaluate several distinct, essential skills necessary for safety in the water. To review, the elements of the swim test are:



Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. This may be either the back crawl or elementary backstroke – the key is “easy/resting.” The 100 yards must be

completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

If a youth or adult is not comfortable taking the full swim test, the Beginner Classification Test may be administered:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming and return to the starting place. It is not required that any particular stroke be demonstrated and floating is not required. Note that if only the beginner test is administered, the youth or adult may not be classified as a swimmer. Either of the tests may be repeated. If the participant is not able to complete the beginner test at a minimum, he or she must be classified as a non-swimmer.



**Remember**, the test administrator must be **objective** – it is a disservice to evaluate an individual as a “swimmer” so that he or she can swim with friends, rather than as a “beginner,” if that is the more appropriate designation. You never want to put a youth or adult in danger by incorrectly evaluating skills. And tests must be given one on one. The tester is the buddy of the individual taking the test. At no time should there be more than one participant tied to the tester. **AND** the Swim Classification Test is the same for all participants, regardless of age – i.e., Cub Scouts must pass the same test as older scouts or adults. The minimum required skillset remains unchanged.

Aquatics Supervision -

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/Aquatics/pdf/Aquatics\\_34346.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/Aquatics/pdf/Aquatics_34346.pdf)



## **BSA SWIMWEAR GUIDELINES**

The following recommendations are to aid councils in developing an appropriate swimwear policy for their aquatics' programs.

### **The BSA National Aquatics Subcommittee Swimwear Statement:**

We recommend that swimwear should be comfortable, functional, and appropriate for the specific aquatic activity. As always, we remind everyone that Scouting's ***Barriers to Abuse*** states, "Appropriate attire is required for all activities." Policies should also reflect the BSA's statement and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



### **Local Council Swimwear Guidelines**

When formulating your council's swimwear policy, in addition to the above statement, it should be based on safety, inclusion, and respect. In addition to referencing the BSA National Aquatics Subcommittee swimwear statement, you may consider additional factors. These can pertain to all ages, genders, and can apply to Scouts, Scouters, staff, visitors, and family members. Additional swimwear policy factors could include:

- Swimwear must be clean
- Designed as swimwear
- Appropriate to the activity
- Secure enough not to shift or fall off while participating
- Infants & toddlers must wear swimwear over swim diapers
- T-shirt or additional layer may be allowed if it does not hamper movement in the water.



**Remember:** *Safety is the most important component of any swimwear guideline.* As you develop your local council's swimwear guidelines, please focus on protecting each person's health and safety, while maintaining dignity and respect.



## **NATIONAL OUTDOOR CONFERENCE**

The Boy Scouts of America will hold the 2023 National Outdoor Conference **Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico. This year's conference will be held in person and is open to both volunteers and professionals.



Join fellow Scouters who will learn the latest trends in delivering outstanding outdoor program activities and experiences to BSA youth at unit, district, council and national events.

In addition to general sessions and key-note addresses, presentations will focus on three themes or program tracks:

1. **Properties 2.0: Property utilization, maintenance and short and long range planning** - Building exceptional experiences requires exceptional properties and a look toward the future. Sessions on this track will provide councils with a look at the future of BSA camping and what is currently happening in the property management industry.
2. **Growing the BSA Culture of Safety in the Outdoors** - Safety is a value in the BSA. How do you manifest this in your outdoor programs? Sessions on this track will help councils identify, analyze, and mitigate risks to prevent harm in their outdoor programs.
3. **Delivering Relevant and Exceptional Outdoor Programs** - Intentional camp and outdoor programming lead to exceptional outdoor experiences. Sessions on this track will share proven practices from across the BSA in all outdoor programs: Long-term camp, Short-term camp, Day Camp, Aquatics, COPE & Climbing, Outdoor Ethics and Conservation, Treks, and Range and Target Sports.

Conference attendees can take sessions within each of the program tracks or concentrate on one of the tracks.

This year's conference also provides an opportunity to attend Pre-Conference sessions from **September 24<sup>th</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Activities and sessions include adventure treks at Philmont, Certified Angler training and Wilderness First Aid Instructor training.

For more information about the National Outdoor Conference and to view a full list of Pre-Conference activities and sessions, and/or to register, please click on the following link:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/noc2023/>





## **SAFETY MOMENT – LIFE JACKETS/PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

A common misconception in the world of water is that life jackets and other types of personal flotation devices (PFDs) are only necessary for non-swimmers. U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets and PFDs can mean the difference between having a fun time in and on the water and having it be your last time in the water.



Where causes of death among boating fatalities in 2017 are known, **76 percent** of the victims drowned, according to the United States Coast Guard. In cases where it is known whether or not life jackets were in use, **84.5 percent of the victims were not wearing life jackets, and two-thirds of the victims** were reportedly good swimmers.

### **The Proper-Fitting Life Jacket**

A life jacket is fitted correctly when it does not rise above your ears in the water or rise above your shoulders on land. If either occurs, adjust the straps or exchange the life jacket for the proper size.

### **Performance Type Devices:**



- Type I - has the greatest required inherent buoyancy and turns most unconscious persons in the water from a face down position to a vertical and slightly backward position, therefore, greatly increasing one's chance of survival.
- Type II - intended to turn some unconscious persons from a face down position in the water to a position where the wearer's respiration is not impeded.
- Type III - intended to support a conscious person in the water in an upright position. This type of device is not required to turn an unconscious person in the water from a face-down position to a position where the wearer's respiration is not impeded.
- Type V - is approved for restricted uses or activities such as boardsailing, or commercial whitewater rafting. These devices may not be suitable for other boating activities. The label indicates whether a particular design of Type V can be used in specific application, what restrictions or limitations apply, and its performance type.

## Performance Level Devices:

- Level 50 - intended for use by those who are competent swimmers and who are near to bank or shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand.
- Level 70 - intended for use by those who have help or a means of rescue close at hand, or who are near bank or shore. These devices have minimal bulk, and cannot be expected to keep the user safe for a long period of time in disturbed water.
- Level 100 - intended for those who may have to wait for rescuers, but are likely to do so in sheltered water. The device should not be used in rough water.
- Level 150 - intended for general application or for use with foul weather clothing. It will turn an unconscious person into a safe position and requires no subsequent action by the user to maintain this position.
- Level 275 - intended primarily for offshore use under extreme conditions.



Scouts BSA groups also follow Safety Afloat guidelines for all boating activities. **These guidelines require life jackets be worn by everyone in boating activities including rowing, canoeing, sailing, boardsailing, motorboating, waterskiing, rafting, tubing, and kayaking.** Type III life jackets (or Level 70-100) are recommended for general

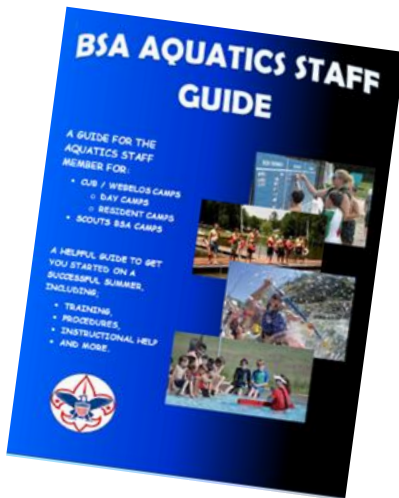
recreational use. Be sure to check state and federal regulations related to additional requirements.

## Resources

- [Guide to Safe Scouting Aquatics](#)
- [National Safe Boating Council—Get the Facts](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard—Accident Statistics](#)

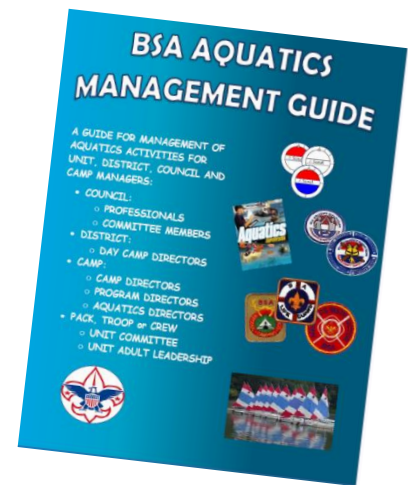


## **KEY RESOURCES FOR COUNCIL AQUATICS PROGRAMS**



The *BSA Aquatics Staff Guide* is intended to serve as a guide for those serving on aquatics staff at camps at all levels of Scouting. It will guide the new staff members through their first summer and, at the same time, provide a valuable reference to more experienced staffers.

The *BSA Aquatics Management Guide* is intended to serve as a guide for those tasked with planning, developing, and delivering aquatics program at all levels of scouting. It will provide guidance for Camp Management and Aquatics Directors while, at the same time, giving Council and District professionals and volunteers direction in developing exciting and safe aquatics programs.



The *BSA Local Council Aquatics Resource Kit* is both an invaluable guide to starting and maintaining an aquatics committee, as well as a critical ongoing resource for running a successful aquatics program.



- These guides and other useful information can be found on the Aquatics Resources page at: <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/forms/>

## ***THE BSA NATIONAL AQUATICS SUBCOMMITTEE***

*The National Aquatics Subcommittee meets at least twice a year and has multiple ongoing projects aimed at helping you in support of your local aquatics programs.*

*This eNewsletter is one effort to keep you informed regarding what's going on in BSA aquatics.*

*Direct information or inquiries regarding this newsletter or the National Aquatics Subcommittee to [outdoorprograms@scouting.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@scouting.org)*

To subscribe to this newsletter, go to

[Aquatics Program | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)

