

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Program Application

New

Renewal

Council name: _____ Council No.: _____

The following is intended to communicate approval by the National Council of Scouting America for the _____ Council to proceed in the development and implementation of a personal watercraft (PWC) program exclusively at (name of camp or location) _____ through Dec. 31, 2026.

It is understood that this conditional approval applies only to the aforementioned location, and that PWCs remain an unauthorized activity except for this specific program. All participants in this program must fully comply with the standards in the Boy Scouts of America's *PWC Operation Manual* provided to those councils that have been approved to offer the program.

Any marketing and/or promotional materials developed in support of this program must prominently disclaim that the use of PWCs has been approved only for this location and program, and any use of PWCs must comply with BSA camping standards as well as the standards outlined in the Scouting America's *PWC Operation Manual*. PWCs are not authorized for unit activities.

(Name) _____ will be responsible for reporting all incidents and/or near misses to the National Council through Incident Reporting through Riskconnect within 48 hours of an occurrence.

For a council to be considered, it must comply with the following requirements. Check the box to verify acceptance of each requirement and attached documentation. Incomplete applications will be returned.

- The council board approval must be secured in advance of the program launch as evidenced by a board resolution.
- Each program participant (or parent/guardian if a minor) will be required to execute a permission slip, inclusive of hold-harmless language, prior to beginning the program.
- Each program participant will be required to have on file with the council a completed and current Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001, which indicates the participant does not have any health or medical conditions that would preclude him or her from participating in the program.
- No unsupervised riding. A qualified staff member must be present at all times.
- The program must adhere to all local, state, and federal guidelines, including vehicle registration and age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment standards, number of riders, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body.
- The council will provide qualified instruction, rider training, and supervision as developed by the Scouting America in cooperation with national boating safety organizations as outlined in the Scouting America's *PWC Operation Manual*.
- Equipment that is not owned or leased by the council is not eligible for inclusion in the program.
- The council may not lease the PWCs to a third party.
- The council must fully comply with the SAFE Checklist
- Towing anything or anyone with a PWC is not permitted.
- Instructor PWCs must carry the following at a minimum: first-aid kit, radio or cell phone, and 25 feet of sturdy rope. Other PWCs must carry the following at a minimum: fire extinguisher, approved audible signaling device, first-aid kit, and 5 feet of rolled duct tape.
- The program must follow the council's conservation plan to minimize the environmental impact and concerns.
- The program must follow appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards.
- The council has an active council risk management committee.
- The council must hold a meeting with key volunteers to discuss conservation, waterways, and potential concerns of the Scouting community.

Agreed to:

Scout Executive

Date

Accepted by:

National Outdoor Programs and Properties Team

Date

