

## **NCAC Aquatics Guidelines**

### **Where to get Safe Swim Defense (SSD) and Safety Afloat training**

SSD and Safety Afloat training is available in two formats - online and DVD-based. You can access the online version through [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org). In person training using the DVD is typically offered as part of summer camp waterfront programs or at District/Council training events such as Pow Wow and University of Scouting. In-person training allows interaction between the instructor and trainer.

### **Versions of training**

The latest version of the training (contained in Aquatics Supervision Scouting America No. 34737) should be presented. There are numerous Scouting America references to SSD and Safety Afloat guidelines. Despite the availability of various versions of SSD and Safety Afloat, trainers should ensure the most current version is used.

The Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense on-line training was updated spring of 2011. DVD versions of the updated Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training are available and must be used during face-to-face training sessions. The DVDs can be ordered from the National Distribution Supply Group at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org) SKU#612934 \$3.99 Safety Afloat guidelines were updated in 2016 to support the modified Cub Scout advancement program.

### **Qualifications for conducting swim classification tests**

Any leader who is familiar with the important details of conducting the Scouting America classification of swimming ability tests can conduct a unit swim classification test. The details are contained in Chapter 5 of Aquatics Supervision. Since all Scouts do not attend summer camp, NCAC Aquatics Committee will periodically host pre-camp unit swim classification tests as a service to units. Some Scouting America aquatic destinations require that swim classification tests be done before arrival. In those cases, the Scouting America Unit Swim Classification Record #19-122 should be used to record the classification level of each participant. Page 2 of the form lists the acceptable qualifications for those administering the tests: Scouting America Aquatics Instructor, Scouting America Lifeguard, Certified Lifeguard, or Swimming and Water Rescue trained.

### **Swim Classification Tests for Goshen Scout Reservation Camps**

Aquatics activities are among the most fun things going on at camp. Being safe in the water requires that each participant be properly classified according to their swimming ability. The 3 BSA swimming classifications are: nonswimmer, beginner and swimmer. Some camp aquatics activities require that the Scout be classified as a swimmer. So a swim classification check is done as one of the first activities in camp each week. Lake Merriweather is probably colder and murkier than swimming pools that Scouts are used to swimming in. To ensure that a Scout can swim well enough to be safe in the lake is why all Goshen Scout Reservation swim classification tests must be done at the waterfront after arrival in camp. Please note that unit swim classification tests done before camp can be an important step in helping Scouts prepare for the swim checks that are done at camp. For nonswimmers, Camp aquatics staff will work with any Scout and recheck him during the week if he wants to advance from nonswimmer to beginner to swimmer.

### **Council Approved Scuba Instructors**

Any scuba instructor who is insured and in good standing with one of the Scouting America recognized agencies are considered approved for conducting scuba instruction unless there is pending disciplinary action being taken against them by their certifying agency.

### **Council Approved Aquatics Activity Award Counselors**

Scouting America has several aquatics activity awards that are not part of the advancement system. They include Mile Swim Award, Scuba Scouting America, Snorkeling Scouting America, Boardsailing Scouting America, Kayaking Scouting America, Scouting America Stand Up Paddleboarding and Whitewater Rafting Scouting America. The application procedure for each of the awards requires that a counselor verify that all requirements have been met. NCAC requires that the counselor be registered with Scouting America and have current Youth Protection Training. Please refer to *Aquatics Activity Awards Counselor Information and Procedures*, which is available on the NCAC Aquatics Committee web page.

### **Aquatics Merit Badge Counselors**

Due to the increase risk involved, several aquatics merit badges require that the merit badge counselor must have specialized training/certification to be able to counsel that merit badge. The required training/certifications are listed in Scouting America's Guide to Advancement (#33088) which is updated annually. The NCAC Advancement Committee manages and approves Merit Badge Counselors in NCAC. Any questions about counselor qualifications should be directed to them.