

GREAT RIVERS COUNCIL SWIM CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America activity is a key element in both Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. The swim classification tests must be renewed annually within the calendar year of attending summer camp.

Traditionally, the swim classification test has only been conducted at a long-term summer camp. However, there is no restriction that this be the only place the test is conducted. It may be more useful to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit going to summer camp.

All persons participating in BSA aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The Classification tests and test procedures have been developed and structured to demonstrate a skill level consistent with the circumstances in which the individual will be in the water. The swimmer's test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability for recreational and instructional activity in a confined body of water with a maximum 12-foot depth and with shallow water footing or a pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer. The various components of each test evaluate the several skills essential to the minimum level of swimming ability. **Each step of the tests must be followed as listed below. Accordingly, these instructions should be shared with the individual(s) administering the swim tests:**

SWIMMER'S TEST:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side stroke, breast stroke, trudgeon, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting back stroke. The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

BEGINNER'S TEST:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before, and return to starting place.

There is no test required for certification as a Learner.

The BSA has identified several reasons for a Scout or Scouter to not successfully complete the BSA swim test. The following are reasons a Scout or Scouter **WILL NOT** pass the BSA swim test:

- Underwater swimming
- Dog paddling
- Resting in the middle of the test
- Treading water and not maintaining a forward motion
- Not floating at the end of the test
- Swimming too fast and appearing to be too tired at the end of the test

ADMINISTRATION OF A SWIM CLASSIFICATION TEST

Option A (at camp):

The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by camp Aquatics personnel.

Option B (at unit level with approved aquatics resource person):

The swim classification test done at a unit level must be conducted by an individual with at least one of the following certifications: Aquatics Instructor, BSA; Aquatics Supervisor; BSA Lifeguard; Red Cross certified lifeguard; swimming instructor; or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued an official buddy tag under the direction of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

SPECIAL NOTE:

When swim tests are at the unit level, the camp aquatics director reserves the right to review or retest any Scout or Scouter whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his/her classification. Additionally, the aquatics director is authorized to retest and Scout or group of Scouts when he/she is reasonably concerned that pre-camp swim tests were not properly administered. All units, Scouts and Scouters must still participate in the camp aquatics orientation session on the first day of camp at the aquatics area.

Unit Swim Classification Record

This record documents each individual's swim classification as of this date. Any increase in status (learner to beginner, beginner to swimmer) after this date would require a reclassification test by the Camp Aquatics Director.

Special Note: Although swim tests may be conducted prior to summer camp, the aquatics director reserves the right to review or retest any Scout or Scouter whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his classification. Additionally, the aquatics director is authorized to retest any Scout or group of Scouts when he/she is reasonably concerned that pre-camp tests were not properly administered.

Unit Number _____ Date of Swim Test _____

	Name	Scout/Adult	Learner	Beginner	Swimmer
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Person Conducting Test

Print Name

Signature

Qualification/Certification _____

Unit Leader

Print Name

Signature