

BSA Aquatics Program

Hawk Mountain Council 2009

The National Health and Safety Committee and the National Program Committee has made several changes to the adult aquatics program. Some of these changes are as follows:

Council Aquatics Committee

A Hawk Mountain Council Aquatics Committee has been formed under the Camping Committee with a responsibility of overseeing the Council's aquatics activities.

For questions contact either Pryce Parker, Chairman, at wpp3@epix.net or Ben Trump at mightycronus@aol.com.

BSA Lifeguard

In the past BSA Lifeguard has served mainly two purposes; training for summer camp aquatics staff and skilled training for adult leaders who help supervise unit activities. Over time the BSA Lifeguard training has become more complex and the expected standard of care has become more rigid. This program can no longer serve dual purposes.

In addition, adult leaders sometimes have difficulties meeting the strenuous physical requirements of BSA Lifeguard, which has become even more rigorous.

The new focus of the BSA Lifeguard has become that of more professional lifeguarding, mainly for summer camp aquatics staff. There are now two new trainings for adult leaders who help supervise units.

Swimming and Water Rescue/Paddle Craft Safety

These two new adult training programs focus on providing the skill training to provide qualified supervision for BSA unit aquatics activities.

Swimming and Water Rescue and *Paddle Craft Safety* are not mandatory, but are **strongly recommended** for unit swim and boating activities away from professionally staffed areas. *Swimming and Water Rescue* is an in-water course, covering rescue techniques for swimmers, while *Paddle Craft Safety*, an in-boat course, covers basic boating skills as well as boating rescue techniques. *Paddle Craft Safety* is a craft-specific course for either canoes or kayaks.

Each course covers eight hours of training and is good for three years.

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat

Currently, *Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat* are the **mandatory** training for supervision of swimming and boating activities. They define the standard operating procedure for BSA swimming and boating activities and the standard of care for unit leadership.

Aquatics Supervision Guide Book

The new Aquatics Supervision Guide Book is available through the Scouting website. It is a leader's guide for BSA swimming and boating activities and contains the text for the new adult trainings *Swimming and Water Rescue* and *Paddle Craft Safety*.

Future Trainings

Currently the Aquatics Committee is looking to start the training process. Anyone who is interested in helping and is currently a certified BSA Lifeguard should contact the Council Office for more information. More information on times, dates, and types of trainings will be presented within the first quarter of new year.

Having trouble understanding the new trainings? The table below should be able to help you understand which trainings are adequate for the different level of activities.

Training	Summer Camp	District/Council Events	Unit Activities
BSA Lifeguard	Yes	Yes ⁺	Yes ⁺
Swimming and Water Rescue ^α	No	Yes [*]	Yes ⁺
Paddle Craft Safety ^β	No	Yes [*]	Yes ⁺
Safe Swim Defense ^α	No	No	Yes
Safety Afloat ^β	No	No	Yes

+—Indicates that a training exceeds requirements

*—Indicates that this will be enacted June 2010

α—Indicates that this training is only good for swimming activities

β—Indicates that this training is only good for boating activities