

Unit Swim Classification Procedures

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, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor season. 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 pool or 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. The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following resource people: Aquatics Instructor BSA, Aquatics Supervisor, BSA Lifeguard, Certified Lifeguard, swimming instructor, or swim coach. Each step of the test is important and should be followed as listed below:

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, trudgen, 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 the starting place.

SPECIAL NOTES:

When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Camp Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to retest all participants to ensure that standards have been maintained.

Buddy Tags issued at camp will be distributed to the unit leader at the end of the summer camp experience to be further utilized on other unit activities.

A photocopy of the credentials of the resource person conducting the classification test must be attached to the roster of participants.

Troop Swim Classification Roster

Troop # _____

Date of Test _____

#	Full Name (Please Print)	Swim Classification		
		Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Name of Person Conducting Test

Print Name

Signature

Unit Leader

Print Name

Signature

(Photocopies of the credentials of the person conducting the test must be attached.)