

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 should 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 is 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. 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 starting place.

ADMINISTRATION OF SWIM CLASSIFICATION TEST

OPTION A: At camp

Camp Aquatics personnel conduct the swim classification test the first day of camp.

OPTION B: At unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people

A separate form is required for each person that is conducting a swim classification test.

The swim classification test done at a unit level **MUST** be conducted by one of the following council approved resource people: BSA Aquatics Instructor, Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor, BSA lifeguard or Red Cross WSI. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the director of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp. The person qualified to conduct the swim test must sign and date the classification record and provide a copy of their current certification. The unit leader also needs to sign the classification record.

SPECIAL NOTE:

When swim tests are conducted away from camp or the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall 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 or she is reasonably concerned that pre-camp swim tests were not properly administered.

Unit Swim Classification Record

**To be conducted by a BSA Aquatics Instructor, a Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor,
a BSA lifeguard or a Red Cross WSI.**

Each different person conducting swim tests must complete a separate form.

This is the individual's swim classification as of this date. Any change in status after this date (i.e., non-swimmer to beginner or beginner to swimmer) requires a reclassification test by the Camp Aquatics Director.

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

Swim Classification: Unit Number: _____ **Test Conducted in pool or lake:** _____

	Full Name (Please Print)	Non Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer	Date of Test
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

Person conducting swim test:

Name: _____
Please Print

Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Certification: _____
(attach copy of certification)

Expiration Date: _____

Unit Leader:
Name: _____
Please Print

Signature: _____