

BSA Swim Tests

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 required for safe deep-water swimming. The Beginner's Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability for recreational and instructional activity in a confined swimming area with a maximum 6-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. Precise statements of the tests are as follows:

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: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. 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

Special note: Although swim tests may be conducted prior to summer camp, the aquatics director is expected to review or retest any Scout or Scouter whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his classification.

Additionally, the aquatics program director is authorized to retest any Scout or group of Scouts when he is reasonably concerned that precamp swim tests were not properly administered.

The **Gulf Stream Council Aquatic Committee** chooses Option A or Option C of these options:

- **Option A** (at camp): The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by aquatics program personnel. Buddy Tags will be issued.
- **Option B** (council-conducted/council-controlled): The council controls the swim classification process by predetermined dates, locations, and approved personnel to serve as aquatics instructors. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the aquatics program director for use at the camp.
- **Option C** (at unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people): The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people: BSA Aquatics Instructor, BSA Lifeguard Counselor, or Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor. If unit swim classification tests are done at local aquatic facilities within Palm Beach County or Martin County, the aquatic facility manager or supervisors will complete forms. Testing will be done under their direction. Please provide information on requirements of the BSA swim tests. We have found that many public facility lifeguards and ARC Lifeguards are not performing the correct BSA Swim Tests. Certification, and contact numbers must be included.

The classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor season. An explanation of each test element and proper test procedures are included in Aquatics, Section IV, *Camp Program and Property Management*

Pre-Camp Swim Check

After medical pre-checks for summer camp only, troops will be escorted to the pool by their troop guide. Unit leaders should bring completed unit swim classification form(s) and present to aquatic director(s) for events or summer camp. Units doing this must follow the Safe Swim Defense guidelines and policies outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. The description of BSA swim testing should be presented to an approved aquatic facility managers or council approved BSA Aquatic Instructor, BSA Lifeguard Counselor, or a GSC Aquatics Committee Member. Please attach a copy of certification card.

Unit Swim Classification Form							
Camp Week/ Event		Campsite		Camp Scoutmaster			
Troop Number			Address				
Council		District		City		State	Zip
E-mail address				Home Phone		Work Phone	
<p>Submission of this form to Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation or Gulf Stream Council certifies that the unit named above has conducted its own swimming ability classification testing following the guidelines of Safe Swim Defense as defined in the Guide to Safe Scouting. The unit requests that this classification be used for aquatics activities at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation or Gulf Stream Council Aquatic events. PRINT CLEARLY. Units are encouraged to retain a printed copy for future unit aquatic activities for attending summer camp(s) or aquatic events outside of Gulf Stream Council. The classification of tests should be reviewed annually.</p>				Date Swim-test conducted:			
				Location of test:			
				Test conducted by:			
				Title: _____			
				Signature: _____			
Phone Number: _____							
Certification Expiration Date: _____							
Public Aquatic Facility							
Address: _____							
Attach a copy of the certification card.							
NAME	Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer	NAME	Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1.				21.			
2.				22.			
3.				23.			
4.				24.			
5.				25.			
6.				26.			
7.				27.			
8.				28.			
9.				29.			
10.				30.			
11.				31.			
12.				32.			
13.				33.			
14.				34.			
15.				35.			
16.				36.			
17.				37.			
18.				38.			
19.				39.			
20.				40.			

Aquatic Tester: Please mark swimming classification for each scouter. Do not leave blank or draw line through. Total Number of Scouters tested: _____ Initials: _____ 03/17-Revised

