

Pre-Camp Swim Check Instructions

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 tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor season. Traditionally swim classification tests have only been conducted upon arrival at summer camp. However, there is no restriction that this be the only place the test is conducted. **Troops are highly encouraged to conduct the swim check prior to their arrival at camp.** Completing the check prior to camp will allow boys and leaders more time on Monday to acclimate themselves to camp.

If a scout is enrolling in an aquatics merit badge, they must take the swim check to fulfill the requirements of the merit badges. Additionally anyone (Scout or Leader) who wishes to participate in aquatic activities must take the swim check.

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

Who can administer the Swim Check?

Recommended

- Aquatics Instructor
- BSA Lifeguard
- Certified Lifeguard
- Swimming Instructor
- Swimming Coach

Acceptable

- Swimming/Lifesaving Merit Badge Counselor
- Scout Master

Swimmer Classification

“Swimmer” Level 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, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

“Beginner” Level 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.

“Non-Swimmer” Level Test

- Cannot pass the beginner test.

Reasons for not passing the test

- Diving in head-first
- Resting in the middle of the test
- Underwater swimming
- Treading water and not maintaining a forward motion
- Dog paddling
- Not floating at the end of the test.

