

Overland Trails Council, BSA Camp Augustine Unit Swim Check 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 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. It may be more useful to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit's arrival at summer camp.

Adopted for the Overland Trails Council Camp
for the Camping Season.

*The Swim Check Administrator MUST be approved by the Overland Trails Council
prior to the administration of the Unit 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 Scouter whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his or her classification. Additionally the Aquatics Director is authorized to retest any Scout or group of Scouts when he or she is reasonably concerned that precamp swim tests were not properly administered.

Purpose of this Policy

The Overland Trails Council has adopted the Unit Swim Check policy to promote the purposes of BSA Aquatics.

The BSA Aquatics Program has five basic objectives.

- To give youth self-confidence and skill in aquatics.
- To instruct youth in self-preservation, the care and use of aquatics equipment and rescue methods.
- To promote aquatics recreation
- To develop physical strength and coordination
- To aid units in planning and conducting a safe year-round aquatics program

The unit swim check policy has been established to promote recreational boating at summer camp.

****The unit swim check is NOT accepted at summer camp if a Scout is enrolling in an aquatics merit badge.****

If a Scout is enrolling in an aquatics merit badge, they must take the swim test at summer camp under the direction of the Aquatics Director. This is to insure the safety of all Scouts involved in the merit badge class. Participating in aquatics merit badges exposes the Scout to additional risks not normally involved in recreational boating.

Administration of the Swim Test

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.

The BSA Aquatics swim test classifies Scouts and Scouters into three swimming ability groups. The three swimmer ability groups are swimmer, beginner and learner.

- The swimmer test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep-water swimming.
- The beginner test demonstrates that the Scout is ready to learn deep-water skills and has the minimum ability required for safe instructional and recreational activity in a confined swimming area in which shallow waters, sides, or other support are less than 25 feet from any point in the water.
- All Scouts and Scouters who do not complete the beginner test or who choose to not participate in any test are classified as learners. All learners should be encouraged to take swim lessons to improve their swimming ability and become comfortable participating in water activities.

The BSA Swimmer and Beginner Test

- **Swimmer 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 completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

- **Beginner 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.

Who can administer the test outside of Camp?

The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people: Aquatics Instructor, BSA; Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor; BSA Lifeguard; certified lifeguard; swimming instructor; or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual may be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the Aquatics Director for use at the camp. **The Swim Check Administrator MUST be approved before the test is administered.**

Reasons for Not Passing the Test

A successful Scouting activity is accomplished only by carefully planning the activity. The BSA swim test is one tool in planning a successful and safe aquatics activity. The BSA has identified several reasons for a Scout or Scouter not to successfully complete the BSA swim test.

The following reasons a Scout or Scouter **WILL NOT** pass the BSA swim test:

- Underwater swimming
- Dog paddling
- Resting in the middle of the test
- Treading water and not maintaining a forward motion
- Not floating at the end of the test
- Swimming too fast and appearing to be too tired at the end of the test

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat

All eight points of the Safe Swim Defense and all nine points of Safety Afloat must be followed at all times when including aquatics activities in the unit's activities.

The eight points of Safe Swim Defense include: Qualified Supervision; Physical Fitness; Safe Area; Lifeguards on Duty; Lookout; Ability Groups; Buddy System and Discipline.

The nine points of Safety Afloat include: Qualified Supervision; Physical Fitness; Swimming Ability; Personal Floatation Equipment; Buddy System; Skill Proficiency, Planning; Equipment; and Discipline.

Overland Trails Council Unit Swim Check Check-Off Form

I, the BSA Swim Check Test Administrator, sign below certifying that the following Scouts and Scouters have been administered the BSA Swim Check Test. I also certify that all Scouts and Scouters have been classified according to the BSA Swim Check Test standards.

**THE SWIM CHECK ADMINISTRATOR MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIT SWIM CHECK TEST AND A COPY OF THE REVIEWER'S CERTIFICATE OR CARD MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM.
THIS SWIM CHECK IS GOOD FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE CONDUCTED.**

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date this Swim Check Expires _____ (No More than One Year)

Approved Test Administrators—Aquatics Director BSA (BSA Camp School Certified), Aquatic Supervisor BSA (BSA Camp School Certified), Lifeguard Instructor BSA, BSA Lifeguard, Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, Red Cross Lifeguard, or Water Safety Instructor. All must be at least 21 years of age or older.

I give approval for the above listed individual to act as a BSA Swim Check Administrator.

Council Approval _____ Title _____ Date _____

_____ Tested in a Lake _____ Tested in a Pool Approximate Water Temperature _____ °F

Swimmer's Name	Age	Swim Classification

The above listed Scouts and Scouters have been administered the BSA Swim Check according to the BSA Swim Check Standards. I feel confident in their Swim Classifications and sign my name certifying the Swim Check.

UNIT LEADER APPROVAL _____ Date _____

Unit Type (Circle One): Pack Troop Team Crew Unit# _____