

Goose Pond Scout Reservation

Swim Classification Procedures

The swim classification procedures 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 checks must be renewed annually within the calendar year of attending summer camp. Traditionally, the swim classification check has only been conducted at a long-term summer camp. However, this check may be conducted elsewhere. 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 check and 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 check 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 pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer.

The various components of each check evaluate the several skills essential to the minimum level of swimming ability. **Each step of the check must be followed as listed below:**

SWIMMER'S CHECK:

Jump feet first into water over your 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 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 CHECK:

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 CLASSIFICATION CHECK

Option A (at camp):

The swim classification check is completed the first day of camp by camp Aquatics personnel.

Option B (at unit level with approved aquatics resource people):

The swim classification check done at a unit level must be conducted by an individual with at least one of the following certifications: BSA Aquatics Instructor; BSA Aquatics Supervisor; certified lifeguard instructor or WSI certified individual by American Red Cross or other nationally recognized agency. Copies of certification credentials are required. (See the Council Camping Director for any clarification or exceptions.) When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued an official buddy tag under the direction of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

SPECIAL NOTE:

When swim checks are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the camp Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or recheck any participants to ensure that standards have been maintained. Also note that swimming ability may be affected differently in a pool versus a lake. Units must still participate in the camp aquatics orientation session on the first day of camp at the aquatics area. Use the official unit swim classification record form.

UNIT SWIM CLASSIFICATION RECORD - GPSR

(Must bring at least three copies of this form to camp: copies to aquatics, office, unit.)

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, would require a reclassification check by the Camp Aquatics Director.

SPECIAL NOTE: When swim checks are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or recheck any/all participants to assure that standards have been maintained. Also note that swimming ability may be affected differently in a pool versus a lake. Units must still participate in the camp aquatics orientation session of the first day of camp at the aquatics area.

Unit Number _____ Date of Swim Check _____

Location of Swim Check _____

	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				

Name of Troop Leader (Print)

Name of Person Conducting Check

Signature

Signature

Phone Number

Print Address

Phone Number

Signature – Camp Aquatics Director

Type of Certification Held – Expiration

Attach copies of certification credential