

BSA Paddle Craft Safety Training Courses

Float trips are popular Boy Scout and Venturing activities. Safety Afloat awareness training provides guidelines for safe float trips and is required of unit leaders, but does not provide the skill training mandated by those guidelines. BSA Paddle Craft Safety courses expands Safety Afloat training to include the skills, as well as the knowledge, needed for a unit leader to confidently supervise canoeing or kayaking excursions on flat and moving water. Persons completing the training should be better able to assess their preparation to supervise paddle craft activities. The training is open to any registered adult leader, Scout, Venturer, or Explorer who is age 15 or older. The training must be conducted by a council approved instructor, takes roughly eight hours and is valid for three years.

There are multiple versions of the course—Basic Canoeing, Basic Kayaking (flat water skills) and River Canoeing, River Kayaking. The Basic course is just that—introductory flat water skills. The River course is done on moving water and safely lead downriver float trips.



The Basic course is offered by Snyder on Haymarket VA. It followed by a nearby on/in flat course is scheduled for the course. The River course

is done at the conclusion of the Basic course at Camp Snyder to make it convenient for those taking part in both courses. Leaders attending the River course only will have to attend the video review session on the previous weekend.

Kayaking. The Basic course is water skills. The River course covers the skills needed to

NCAC at Camp William B. consists of a classroom session water session. The River weekend after the Basic requires viewing/discussing a

The training can be arranged for your Unit or District at your location if there will be 6 or more enrolled in the course.

Paddle Craft Safety Basic Course Requirements:

Course Prerequisites

- Current Safety Afloat training (can be done online at scouting.org)
- At least 15 years old; Submit health review (Part B only, will be reviewed at the course);
- Complete BSA swimmer test;
- Have current Safety Afloat training (available online at myscouting.scouting.org/)

Personal Safety Skills

- Select a lifejacket of appropriate size and demonstrate proper fit.
- Demonstrate the feet-up floating position used if caught in a current.
- Demonstrate H.E.L.P and Huddle positions; Capsize and swim a boat to shore.

Basic boating skills

Demonstrate the following maneuvers on calm water using standard stroke techniques:

- Transport boat from rack or trailer to water's edge

- Safely board and launch the craft.
- Travel in a straight line for 50 yards.
- Stop the craft.
- From the stop, move the boat sideways first to the right, then to the left.
- From the stop, pivot the boat to the right, then to the left.
- Return to shore along a curved course demonstrating both left and right turns while underway
- Land, safely exit and store the craft.

Group safety skills

- Throw a rescue bag, laying the line within 3 feet of an object 30 feet away.
- Demonstrate a boat rescue of a swimmer.
- Demonstrate an on-water boat-over-boat assist.

Knowledge development

- Correctly answer 80% of the questions on the Paddle Craft Safety written exam covering Safety Afloat, trip preparation, emergency action plans, and basic boating knowledge. Review any incomplete or incorrect answers.

[NCAC Paddle Craft Safety Basic Course Information](#)

The Paddle Craft Safety Basic course has 4 major components:

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| 1) Course Prerequisites | 2) Classroom session |
| 3) Written test | 4) On/in-the-water boating session |

The course prerequisites should be completed before the classroom session is conducted. Safety Afloat training is available online at www.scouting.org. Registrants must be 15 years old before the first class session. Part A of the BSA annual Health and Medical Record should be brought to the first class session. The BSA swimmer classification must have been completed within the past 12 months.

Component 2 is held as a three hour classroom session. The required textbook for #2 & #3 is BSA Aquatics Supervision publication (No. 34737). It serves as the text for the course and is the standard reference on policies and skills covered during the course. The written exam is taken directly from the material in Section I (p. 43-45) and Chapters 12 through 20 in Section III (p. 278-282) of the text. Participants should be prepared to take the written test at the end of the classroom session by being familiar with Sections I & III before coming to the class. Experience has shown that it is unlikely that the written test can be successfully completed without reviewing the appropriate sections in the Aquatics Supervision book since all the test material is NOT covered during the classroom session.

Component 4 takes about 4-6 hours of on/in-the water work. Participants will get wet during the session, so be prepared. The BSA swim test must be completed prior to participation in component #4. This course involves boating and therefore abides by the Personal Health Review criteria of BSA's Safety Afloat guidelines. Since the activity is not unduly strenuous and lasts less than 72 hours, only a health history (BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, Part A) is

required. Participants must present their health history before participating in any water activities.

Successful completion of all four course components results in a Paddle Craft Safety Basic course completion card being awarded. Cards expire 3 years after completion.

Paddle Craft Safety- River Requirements

1. Prerequisites:

- A. Submit written evidence of physical fitness
- B. Have current Safety Afloat training.
- C. Have current training in Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety- Basic for the appropriate craft.
- D. Demonstrate or provide evidence of current ability to complete the 100 yard BSA swimmer classification.

2. View and discuss the ACA/BSA video “Reading the Rhythms of Rivers and Rapids”.

3. Do the following during an instructor-led canoe or kayak trip of at least three miles down a flowing river with Class I or Class II features, including standing waves, a downstream V, and a large eddy. A segment that includes isolated Class II+ or Class III rapids that can be portaged is appropriate, but not necessary. Features and water levels must be consistent with the safe performance of the requirements.

- A. Transport boat from trailer or carrier to river’s edge. Safely board and launch the boat into a current.
- B. Review the effect of basic flat-water strokes in moving water, demonstrating the ability to stay parallel with the current.
- C. Demonstrate knowledge of river signals to communicate with other boats.
- D. Perform a controlled swamp in a current, safely exit the craft, and guide it to shore.
- E. Swim feet first in a current without a boat and catch a throw bag deployed from shore.
- F. Successfully deploy a throw bag to a person fulfilling requirement 3E.
- G. If canoeing, demonstrate a cross draw stroke. If kayaking, demonstrate a low brace.
- H. Demonstrate ability to cross the current using a front ferry.
- I. Demonstrate an eddy turn.;
- J. Demonstrate peel out of an eddy.
- K. Stop above a rapid indicated on a river map. Scout the rapid to determine how best to run the rapid and then run it.
- L. Stop above a hole, low-head dam, or other feature indicated on a river map. Scout and portage the feature, even if it can be safely run.
- M. Land, safely exit, and load the boat for transport.

4. Write a float plan for a troop, crew, or ship covering the stretch of river used for training.

[NCAC Paddle Craft Safety River Course Information](#)

As with any river activity, the PCS River course requires preparation to ensure a safe experience. Part of that preparation involves reviewing the ACA/BSA video “Reading the Rhythms of Rivers and Rapids” and generating a float plan for the stretch of river used for training. Those items are covered in a session the week before the on-river session. They are done at the conclusion of the PCS Basic course held at Camp Snyder. Completion of the PCS River course requires attendance at the planning/review session along with successful demonstration of the PCS River course skills.

[NCAC Paddle Craft Safety Course Registration Information](#)

Register online *ncacbsa.org/aquatics*

The \$55 PCS Basic course registration fee includes the required textbook, the classroom session, water session and all required equipment. If you already have the Aquatics Supervision manual then the course fee is \$25. Please note that the same book is used for this course and the BSA Swimming and Water Rescue course. The registration fee for the PCS River course is \$25 which includes all required equipment.

2018 Paddle Craft Safety Basic Course Schedule	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
6 May	30 April
29 Sept	24 Sept
2018 Paddle Craft Safety River Course Schedule	
Planning session 6 May	30 April
River session 12 May	
Planning session 29 Sept	24 Sept
River session 30 Sept	

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