

# BSA Swim Classification

In accordance with BSA policy, each Scout and adult must have a swim classification upon arrival at camp.

Swim classifications may be done at camp as part of the check-in process. Individuals or units may also conduct swim classifications for Scouts and adults prior to attending camp using the Swim Classification Procedure and record sheet.

If a unit is taking advantage of the option to determine swim classifications prior to arrival at camp, the following procedure must be followed without exception.

**Please note: When the swim classification is conducted away from camp, the Camp Aquatics Director reserves the authority to review or reassess at his/her discretion.**

Swim classification at the unit level must be administered by individuals who show proof of meeting all of the following three requirements.

1. Hold one or more of the following certifications valid at the time of the swim classification test:
  - Aquatics Instructor, BSA
  - Aquatics Supervision Swimming and Water Rescue, BSA
  - Red Cross Lifeguard
  - Red Cross Swimming Instructor (or comparable)
  - Swimming Coach
2. Attend a Scouting America New Hampshire Swim Classification Test Training Session
3. Acknowledge and sign the following documents stating understanding the purpose of the swim classification and procedures for swim classification test administration.

Any expense for this pre-camp classification is paid by the unit and is not reimbursed by the camp.

The attached “Unit Swim Classification” report must be filled out completely with the proper classification filled in for all Scouts, leaders and adults who took the swim classification test. The Swim Classification form and the copy of the BSA requirements must be signed by the administrator of the classification assessment and submitted along with copies of their certifications with expiration date.

Every person using the waterfront must have a “swim classification.” If any person in your unit does not take part in the pre-camp classification session(s), he/she will have to take the swim test upon arrival at summer camp. When the unit/camper arrives at summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag based on his/her classification.

## Important Message for Unit Leaders

**The swim classification assessment must be given and scored according to the direction contained in this guide and taught in the Scouting America New Hampshire Swim Classification Training Course. Using any other standard risks putting a Scout in a life threatening situation. Overstating a Scout’s swimming ability could allow him access to deeper water than he is prepared for with the potential for tragic results.**

**Follow the guide for safety’s sake!**

## Unit Swim Classification Record

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 test by the Camp Aquatics Director.

**SPECIAL NOTE: When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or retest all participants to assure that standards have been maintained.** (Changes and/or corrections to the following chart should be initialed and dated by the test administrator.)

Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Swim Test: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | Full Name<br>(cross out unused spaces) | Y<br>or<br>A | Swim Classification (X one box) |          |         |
|----|--|--------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------|
|    |  |              | Non Swimmer                     | Beginner | Swimmer |
| 1  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 2  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 3  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 4  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 5  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 6  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 7  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 8  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 9  |  |              |                                 |          |         |
| 10 |  |              |                                 |          |         |

**COUNCIL-APPROVED PERSON CONDUCTING THE TEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Authorization / Training --**Certification Attached !**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

**UNIT LEADER:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Note: Unit Leader signer is knowledgeable of the Swim Test Procedure described in Aquatic Supervision - a leaders guide to youth swimming and boating activities) and is attesting that he/she has witnessed and agrees that all procedures have been followed.

# BSA Swim Classification

It is the unit leader's responsibility to ensure that the administrator of the swim assessment understands the standards for the Boy Scouts of America's swim classification. Please have the administrator read and sign this description of the classification. The administrator must also attach copies of his or her certifications, including CPR and expiration date, to this paper. This should be submitted with the unit classification sheet. Sheets without this information **will not** be accepted at summer camp.

**Nonswimmers** (white) have not completed either the beginner or swimmer test.

**Beginners** (red) must pass this 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 the starting place.

**Swimmers** (blue) pass this test: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and 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

**Please note: When the swim classification is conducted away from camp, the Camp Aquatics Director reserves the authority to review or reassess at his/her discretion.**

I understand the national standards of the Boy Scouts of America for swim classification and I have administered the test in a manner supporting these standards.

Signature of administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_