

Capitol Area Council Swim Classification Record

Unit Number _____

Date of Swim Test _____

	Full Name (Print)	Medical Recheck (Parts A-B)	Swim Classification		
			Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Any conscientious leader, currently trained in Safe Swim Defense, who is familiar with basic swimming strokes and who understands and abides by the guidelines in this chapter can administer swim tests for the unit.

When swim tests are conducted away from camp, the camp aquatics director at a council camp retains the right to review or retest any or all participants to ensure that standards have been maintained.

Test administrators should utilize Chapter 5 of the [Scouting America's Aquatics Supervision](#) as a reference.

Name of person supervising and facilitating the swim test:

Print Name

Signature

Type of Training/Authorization (attached a copy of certification)

Expiration Date (if applicable)

Swim Classification Tests

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat guidelines tailor activities to swimming ability. Therefore, the unit leader needs to provide opportunities for swimmer classification before aquatics outings. Swim tests conducted by council personnel during or just before summer camp give the unit one way to determine swimming ability. However, not all unit members attend camp, new members may join the unit at any time, and some units plan aquatics activities in lieu of summer camp. Therefore, the unit should be able to safely conduct its own swim tests.

Regardless of where or when the swim test is given the following procedures apply:

- The test is given one-on-one. The test administrator and the swimmer are buddies during the administration of the test.
- Each component of the test is important. The test must not be changed either to assist the Scout or to expedite the process.
- The test must be completed without aid or support. Aid includes life jackets, wetsuits, fins, etc. Swim goggles may be used to avoid eye irritation.
- Swim tests must be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the outdoor season.

Swimming Classifications

Scouting recognizes three basic swimming classifications: *swimmer*, *beginner*, and *nonswimmer*. Swim classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the season.

The swimmer test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deepwater swimming. The various components of the test evaluate several distinct, essential skills necessary for safety in the water.

A precise statement of the swimmer test is:

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.

A precise statement of the beginner test is:

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming and return to the starting place.

Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or the swimmer test is classified as a nonswimmer. The title is descriptive and non-judgmental. It may represent those just learning to swim who do not yet have the skills to safely venture beyond shallow water. It may also apply to those who have not yet been tested or who have elected to forego the test and to accept the limitations on activities imposed by the classification.