

PONY EXPRESS AQUATICS PROGRAM 2009

The National Aquatics Task Force recommended several changes to the BSA Aquatics adult training program. These changes were approved, effective January 2008, by the National Health and Safety Committee and the National Program Committee.

It is the intent of Pony Express Council to provide the best program available. Toward that end the new Aquatics program for the Pony Express Council is as follows:



COUNCIL AQUATICS COMMITTEE

The Aquatics Committee has overall responsibility for the local council's aquatic activities

Responsibilities

1. Training
2. Program
3. Advancement
4. Safety
5. Development of Aquatic Leadership

Pony Express Council may form an Aquatics Committee. Interested volunteers or inquiries may be directed to Chuck McIntosh (paintedturtlecane@yahoo.com).



AQUATICS INSTRUCTOR, BSA

Aquatics Instructor, BSA remains the highest level of training offered in the BSA aquatics program.

- Required of Summer Camp Aquatic Directors.
- Only available by completion of training at a National Camping School.



BSA LIFEGUARD

For many years BSA Lifeguard has served two purposes--skill training for adult leaders supervising unit activities and training for summer camp aquatics staff.

During that time the aquatics program has become more complex and the expected standard of care has been more clearly defined by government agencies. One program can no longer serve two purposes.

Closely aligned with American Red Cross Lifeguard, the new focus of BSA Lifeguard is that of professional lifeguard--mainly for summer camp Aquatics Staff.



AQUATICS SUPERVISION: SWIMMING AND WATER RESCUE

AND

**AQUATICS
SUPERVISION:
PADDLE CRAFT
SAFETY**



These are the two new adult training programs focused on providing the skill training for “qualified supervision” of BSA unit aquatics activities.

Both programs build on the policy and procedure training provided in Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

These courses are highly recommended for unit leadership, both adults and older youth, whenever a unit swims at a location without professional lifeguards or undertakes a boating expedition without a trained guide.



And

**SAFETY
AFLOAT**



Safe Swim Defense and *Safety Afloat* remain the required training for supervision of unit swimming and boating activities.

Except for some changes in wording, *Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat* remain unchanged.

They define *standard operating procedures* for BSA swimming and boating activities and the *standard of care* expected of unit leadership.

This training allows a conscientious leader to assess his/her ability to adequately supervise unit aquatics activities.



Pony Express Council for 2009

Safe Swim Defense and **Safety Afloat** will be offered as normal--at summer camp, on-line, and as arranged for local or district training.

Aquatic Supervision:

Paddle Craft Safety is being offered at summer camp, and as arranged for local or district training.

Aquatic Supervision:

Swimming and Water Rescue is being offered at summer camp, and as arranged for local or district training.

BSA Lifeguard is open to adults and older youth. The program will be offered at summer camp, and as arranged for local or district training.

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