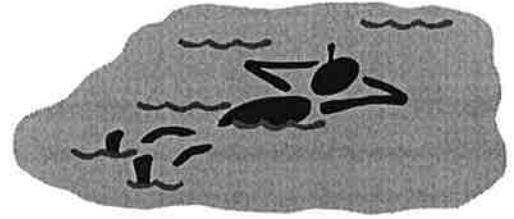


# **Swim Classification Procedures (Swim Tests)**

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America activity is a key element in both Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. The swim tests must be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each summer season. Traditionally, the swim classification test has only been conducted at a long-term summer camp. However, there is no restriction that this be the only place that the test is conducted.



**It is advantageous to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit going to summer camp.**

All persons participating in aquatics are classified according to their swimming ability. The classification test 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 Test 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 a pool or pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer.

**Swimmer's Test:** Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side stroke, breast stroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting back stroke. The 100 yards must be swam continuously and include at least one sharp turn. Finish by floating on your back for a minute.

**Beginners 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 starting place.

**Learners:** any youth that is unable to complete the beginners test is classified as a Learner and may use the shallow section of the pool and may use a rowboat with qualified adult supervision.

## **Administration of Swim Classification Test**

### **Option A (at unit level with council approved aquatics resource people) BEFORE CAMP**

The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council approved resource people: Aquatics Instructor, BSA; Aquatics Supervisor; BSA Lifeguard; certified lifeguard; swimming instructor; or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp. The signed form must be presented upon arrival at camp to the Aquatics Director at the pool to obtain your buddy tags for the aquatics areas.

**Option B (at camp)** The swim classification test is completed on arrival by camp aquatics personnel.

**Special Note:** When swim tests are conducted away from, or at, camp the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or retest individuals or entire packs to ensure that standards have been maintained.

# SWIM CLASSIFICATION RECORD

This is the individual's swim classification as of this date. Any change in status after this date (i.e., learner to beginner or beginner to swimmer), would require a reclassification test by the Aquatics Director. Please complete and present this sheet to the Aquatics Director at the pool after check-in at camp to have your buddy tags completed.

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

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

	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.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

**Person Conducting Test:** Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Leader:** Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_