

First aid training is not included in the *Swimming & Water Rescue* course with the expectation the leader has addressed this need separately, as noted in the course material and on the training card.

BSA Swimming and Water Rescue Requirements

Course Prerequisites

- Be age 15 years or older prior to training
- Submit health review (Part A only, will be collected at the course)
- Have current BSA swimmer classification and Safe Swim Defense training (available online at <https://myscouting.scouting.org/>)

Swimming Ability

- Complete the BSA Swimmer Test:
- Recover a 10-pound weight from 8 feet of water.

Water Skills

- Administer both the BSA *beginner* and *swimmer* classification tests.
- Demonstrate reaching assists from deck, side and shallow water using items such as arms, legs, towels, rescue tubes, and poles.
- Twice demonstrate throwing assists using items such as lines, ring buoys, throw bags, and free-floating supports. Successfully place at least one such aid within reach of a subject 25 feet from shore.
- Demonstrate stride jump and compact jump entries into deep water.
- Demonstrate an accompanied rescue for a conscious subject in deep water 20 feet from shore. Enter the water with a buoyant aid, present the aid to the subject, release it, and accompany the subject to shore. Speak to the subject throughout the assist to provide clear instruction and encouragement.
- Demonstrate a contact rescue for an unconscious subject at or near the surface in deep water 20 feet from shore:
 - Approaching the subject from the front, use a wrist tow to move the subject to shore. During the approach, confirm that the subject is passive.
 - Approaching the subject from the rear, use an armpit tow to move the subject to shore. During the approach, confirm that the subject is passive.
 - With the assistance of one other person, and without the aid of a backboard, remove an unconscious subject from the water at the edge of the pool or pier and check for breathing and circulation.
- Practice in-water rescues of both conscious and unconscious subjects using a variety of flotation aids.

-Demonstrate the following defensive actions:

- Front head-hold escape
- Rear head-hold escape

-Demonstrate a line-and-tender rescue as both the swimmer and the line tender.

-Demonstrate in-line stabilization for a suspected spinal injury in shallow water:

- For a face-up subject
- For a face-down subject

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- For a face-up subject
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Knowledge Development

Correctly answer 80 percent of the questions on the *Swimming and Water Rescue* written exam covering Safe Swim Defense, emergency action plans, surveillance, victim recognition, and water rescue. Review any incomplete or incorrect answers.

NCAC Swimming and Water Rescue Course Information

The Swimming and Water Rescue course has 4 major components:

- 1) Course Prerequisites
- 2) Classroom session
- 3) Written test
- 4) In-the-water session

The course prerequisites should be completed before the classroom session is conducted. 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 achieved 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. Exam questions for BSA Swimming and Water Rescue are taken from the review questions of Sections I and II beginning on pages 43 and 135. If participants want to take the written test at

the end of the classroom session they should be familiar with Sections 1 & II 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 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.

Successful completion of all four course components results in a Swimming

BSA Swimming & Water Rescue Course Information

This course provides BSA leaders with information and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies during unit swimming activities. It expands the awareness instruction provided by *Safe Swim Defense* training. Persons completing the training should be better able to assess their preparation to supervise unit swimming events. The BSA recommends that at least one person with this training is present to assist with supervision whenever a unit swims at a location that does not provide lifeguards. This training is open to any registered adult leader, Scout, Venturer, or Explorer who is age 15 or older. A council approved instructor must directly supervise all training. The course takes approximately eight hours and is valid for three years.

Swimming and Water Rescue 2017 Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
15 Apr 2017	10 Apr
6 Aug 2017	31 Jul

and Water Rescue course completion card being awarded. Cards expire 3 years after completion.

Contact Mike Meenehan (mmmeenehan@cox.net) to register for a particular session. Register early to ensure your place in the course. A minimum of three participants is needed one week before the course. If there are not sufficient registrations one week before the course it will be cancelled (we will attempt to contact you).

Course Fees:

\$35 Facility Fee to Blu Water Scuba

\$30 Required textbook (you may purchase on your own)

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\$65 (or \$35) total

Please note that the same book is used for this course and the BSA Paddle Craft Safety course.

Classes are held at Blu Water Scuba, 9446 Taney Rd, Manassas, VA 20110. You will be provided with more information after you register with Blu Water at bluwaterscuba@gmail.com

Questions: Contact Mike Meenehan (703-400-2176) mmmeenehan@cox.net



Although the training is consistent with training provided professional lifeguards, the *Swimming & Water Rescue* course is not a lifeguard training course and is not a substitute for *BSA Lifeguard* training for summer camp aquatics staff. On the other hand, this course addresses important information that may not be covered in generic lifeguard training programs such as: preventative measures, including the buddy system and swim classification tests; how to set up a safe swim area in diverse situations; the use of non-standard rescue equipment; and emergency action plans in remote settings. Therefore, BSA leaders with lifeguard training from other agencies are encouraged to complete this course prior to supervising unit swim activities in remote settings.

Adult and youth first aid training, including CPR, is an important safety consideration for all Scouting activities, not just swimming.