

## Swim Classification Procedures

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America activity is a key element in our Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. The swim classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor 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 the test is conducted. It may be more useful to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit going to Summer Camp.

All persons participating in BSA aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The classification tests and test 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 swimming.

The various components of each test evaluate the several skills essential to the minimum level of swimming ability. Each step of the test is important and should be followed as listed below:

**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. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

**BEGINNER'S 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.

**NON-SWIMMER TEST:** No Test is required; however all are encouraged to get in the water.

## Administration of Swim Classification Test

### AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

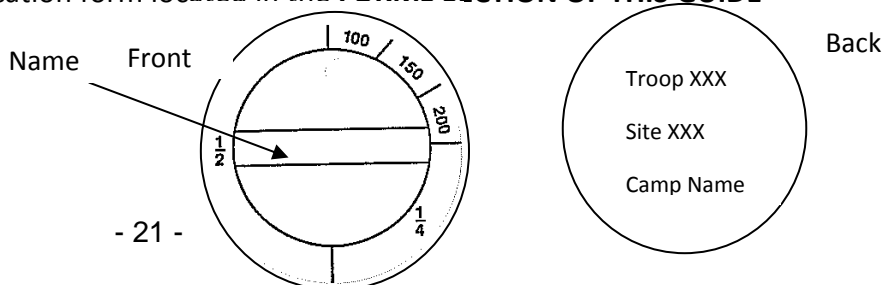
**OPTION A (at camp):** The swim classification test is completed Sunday at camp by Camp Aquatics personnel. Currently this is the most popular option.

**OPTION B (Unit Conducted):** The Council/District controls the swim classification process by pre-determining dates, locations and approved personnel to serve as aquatic instructors. **Buddy Tags will only be given out at Summer Camp**, each individual will be issued a buddy tag and arm bands. The Camp Aquatics Director will control the use at camp. **\*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 retest all participants to assure that standards have been maintained.

\*Please complete the Swim Classification form located in the **FORMS SECTION OF THIS GUIDE**

USE PERMANENT MARKER

Classification	Armband Color
Non Swimmer	White Armband
Beginner	Red Armband
Swimmer	Blue Armband



# 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. Leaders MUST present signed form at check-in. All tests must be supervised and administered by a Certified Person with current certification. A copy of their certification card must accompany this completed form. Incomplete forms or absence of certification will result in a retest at camp. The Aquatic Director may review or retest any Scout whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his classification.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all time reserve the authority to review or retest all participants to assure that standards have been maintained.

	Full Name (please print)	SWIM CLASSIFICATION		
		Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				

**I attest to the validity of the preceding information as a certified lifeguard. A copy of my certification is attached. I understand that classifying an unqualified Scout as a swimmer or beginner could endanger the health and safety of the individual.**

Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Week or session \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person Conducting Swim Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Aquatics Instructor, BSA    Aquatics Supervisor    BSA Lifeguard    Paddle Craft Safety and Swimming and Water Rescue

American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor    Swim Coach    School: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*FORM IS INVALID WITHOUT ATTACHMENT OF A COPY OF CERTIFICATION CARD.\*\*\***