



LOCAL COUNCIL AQUATICS COMMITTEE



COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

TRAINING

Work with the council training committee to provide aquatics training for adults and youth.

- Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat
- Basic swimming and boating skills training for unit leaders
- Basic water-rescue skills training for unit leaders
- Development of unit aquatics activities for unit leaders
- Camp aquatics staff training.
- Basic canoeing, crew rowing, whitewater

PROGRAM

Provide and promote a broad array of basic and high-adventure swimming and boating activities to support all parts of the Scouting program.

- Promote learn-to-swim programs for all members, especially Cub Scouts
- Provide or promote whitewater canoe, kayak, rafting trips.
- Provide instruction for special aquatics awards.
- Promote aquatics high-adventure opportunities.
- Provide enhanced aquatics activities during day camp and resident camp sessions for Cub Scouts and for Boy Scouts.
- Help select, procure, and maintain camp aquatics equipment.
- Provide special aquatics camp sessions for Boy Scouts and Venturers
- Provide winter swim programs with learn-to-swim and advancement opportunities for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers.
- Coordinate with other councils to promote programs and resources.
- Implement and promote the aquatics portions of the national Red Cross and BSA agreements
- Coordinate with other agencies (e.g., YMCA, NAUI, PADI, American Canoe Association, etc.) for joint programs or use of facilities.

ADVANCEMENT

Provide advancement opportunities for youth.

- Cub Scout electives and Cub Scout Sports award for swimming
- Webelos Aquanaut activity badge
- Second Class and First Class rank requirements
- Aquatics Merit Badge programs and support – summer camp and year-round

SAFETY

Actively assess safe operation of council- and district-led aquatics activities including summer camp and promote aquatics safety at the unit level.

- Promotion of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat at the district and unit level
- Precamp swim classification testing
- Review of council and district safety training and procedures for aquatics activities including day and resident camps
- Inspection of summer camp and other council and district aquatics activities facilities and equipment

AQUATICS LEADERSHIP

Attract, develop, and retain qualified aquatics leaders for the training, program, advancement, and safety activities above.

- This includes summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatics activities and should include succession planning for key roles.
- Assist with sourcing and interviewing qualified candidates to ensure necessary aquatics experience, training certificates, and aquatics leadership.
- Establish a succession planning process identifying the next aquatics leaders for key roles.
- Establish a program to train, develop, and retain younger aquatics staff members to become aquatics leaders in the future. This includes staff for summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatics activities.
- Develop and maintain enough qualified instructors, distributed throughout the council, to timely meet all local aquatics training needs.

Source: *Aquatic Supervision – A leaders guide to youth swimming and boating activities.*

Note: These are the responsibilities of the Local Council Aquatic Committee. The recommended activities under each point will vary with the council's individual needs.

-- National Aquatics Task Force,
National Outdoor Program Committee

