NCAC Aquatics Guidelines

Where to get Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training

SSD and SA training is available online via www.myscouting.org or in person from qualified trainers at the District or Council level. SSD and SA training is typically offered as part of summer camp waterfront programs. In-person training allows interaction between the instructor and trainer.

Who is authorized to present SSD and SA training?

Trainers for BSA's Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training must be authorized by the local Council. In the National Capital Area Council, the Aquatics Committee coordinates with the NCAC Health and Safety and the NCAC Training Committees on approving trainers for SSD and SA. This is done to ensure that trainers are using the currently approved BSA training material and are aware of current BSA aquatics policies so they are able to address questions arising from participants.

Training for SSD Instructors include: Swimming and Water Rescue training, BSA Lifeguard training, BSA Lifeguard Instructor, or BSA Aquatics Instructor.

Training for SA Instructors include: Paddle Craft Safety, BSA Lifeguard training, BSA Lifeguard Instructor, or BSA Aquatics Instructor.

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat pocket commitment cards can be obtained from Gary Carroll, NCAC Aquatics Committee Advisor.

Versions of training

The latest version of the training (contained in Aquatics Supervision BSA No. 34737) should be presented. There are numerous BSA references to SSD and SA guidelines. Despite the availability of various versions of SSD and SA, trainers should ensure the most current version is used.

The Safety Afloat on-line training was updated spring of 2011. A DVD version of the updated Safety Afloat training is available and must be used during face-to-face training sessions. The DVD can be ordered from the National Distribution Supply Group at www.scoutstuff.org (SKU#612934, $3.99).

The current Safe Swim Defense instructor outline is "Safe Swim Defense – It Works! Training Outline" #14-417. Safe Swim Defense training is expected to be updated in May 2012.

Qualifications for conducting swim classification tests

Any leader who is familiar with the important details of conducting the BSA classification of swimming ability tests can conduct a unit swim classification test. The details are contained in Chapter 5 of Aquatics Supervision. Since all scouts do not attend summer camp, NCAC Aquatics Committee will periodically host pre-camp unit swim classification tests as a service to units.

Council Approved Scuba Instructors

Any scuba instructor who is insured and in good standing with one of the BSA recognized agencies are considered approved for conducting scuba instruction unless there is pending disciplinary action being taken against them by their certifying agency.