



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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FROM: Daniel R. Ruth, Associate Director
Council Services Division

TO: Scout Executives

SUBJECT: UNIT SWIM CLASSIFICATIONS AT LONG-TERM RESIDENT CAMP

Traditionally, the swim classification test has been conducted at a long-term summer camp as part of the check-in process. The program group has approved the use of a newly developed Unit Swim Classification Record and Procedures, No. 19-122 (copy attached). These new procedures will enable the unit to conduct swim classification tests prior to attending long-term resident camp. This means that Scouts and their leaders will arrive at camp with their unit's swimming classifications already completed, greatly reducing the hours required for unit registration and check-in.

The administration of the swim classification test is at the discretion of the local council. These are the three options:

OPTION A (at camp):

The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by camp aquatics personnel.

OPTION B (Council conducted/council controlled):

The council controls the swim classification process by predetermined dates, locations and approved personnel to serve as aquatics instructors. 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.

OPTION C (At unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people):

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.

SPECIAL NOTE:

When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Camp Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or retest all participants to ensure that standards have been maintained.

Action: We suggest you share this information with the person(s) responsible for the long-term resident camp program in your council. In turn, they should share the procedures with the council camping and health and safety committee(s) and the resident Camp Aquatics Director(s). After seeking the approval of the Scout executive and the council camping committee, option A, B, or C should be selected by the committee. Finally, implement the option and share it with the unit leadership planning to attend long-term resident camp.