

Roundtable Scouts BSA Breakout

Scouts BSA Roundtable Discussion

Scouting on the Water

Scouting has many water activities including swimming, sailing, snorkeling, scuba, surfing, canoeing and paddlecrafts. There are lots of merit badges and other activities that Scouts can do which involve water.

Before engaging in aquatics, it is important to review the guide to Safe Scouting for activity specific safety information. Check the age appropriate guidelines for the activities you plan to participate in. Remember there are additional required trainings for Scouting on the water, including the Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat Training. Always use the S.A.F.E. checklist when planning any activity.

Each location may have its own requirements for water safety. Check out the Aquatics Supervision guide to help you be safe by scanning the QR code here. Make sure you have adequate training and follow all the rules!



Focusing on the Equipment and Environment part of the S.A.F.E. checklist, discuss equipment which is needed for aquatic activities including:

- Swimwear
- Water shoes
- A sun shirt or rashguard
- Life Jackets including US Coast Guard approved (properly sized and in good repair)
- Specific equipment for scuba and snorkeling
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Paddling Gloves



Don't forget to stay hydrated! Scouts may forget to drink water because there is water all around! Be prepared at aquatic activities with plenty of drinking water and remind Scouts to drink regularly.

Ensuring the safety and enjoyment of Scouts participating in water activities requires planning for equipment, attire and environmental factors. Scout leaders should prioritize safety while allowing participants to feel comfortable and well prepared to navigate and enjoy the wonders of aquatic exploration.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your troop's favorite Scouting activity that involves water?
2. How can the principles of teamwork, communication and leadership be reinforced and developed through water activities?
3. How can Scout leaders ensure that Scouts remain properly hydrated while enjoying their aquatic adventures?

Resources:

Guide to Safe Scouting <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

Guide to Safe Scouting Aquatics Safety

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02/>

S.A.F.E. <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>