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NATIONAL JAMBOREE 2026



The National Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of lifetime! It's 360-degrees of fun, friends and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenges you to try things you never thought you could.



As A Member of the Jamboree Service Team - You Deliver the Jamboree Experience!

The National Jamboree is more than a destination. It's the adventure of lifetime. And there is simply nothing else like it on the planet.



What's a Jamboree? It's not camp. National Jamboree is 360-degrees of fun, friends and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes you places you never thought you'd go and challenges you to try things you never thought you could.

It's the beginning of your own heroes' journey that will challenge you to go farther than you ever thought possible. You'll reach deeper and lift yourself higher to become the best version of yourself!

Aquatics needs you to serve on staff and be part of this incredible experience! At the 2026 Jamboree, we will offer Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, SCUBA Experience and Water Reality (fabulous aquatics course).

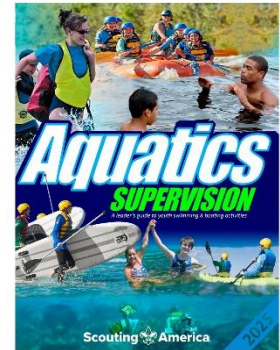
Register Now!!! <https://jamboree.scouting.org>



AQUATICS RESOURCES – IMPORTANT UPDATES

Aquatics Supervision Guide (2026 Update)

Aquatics Supervision: A leader's guide to youth swimming and boating activities. This was formerly only available for purchase from online or storefront Scout Shops, and is now available for free as a digital download and may be printed locally. The guide supports the Aquatics Supervision Swimming & Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety programs and serves as a resource for the aquatics special awards.



Classification of Swimming Ability

The swimmer and beginner classification tests defined in Safe Swim Defense may be administered at the unit level following procedures specified in [Aquatics Supervision](#).

For council events, such as summer camps subject to state and local regulations, the council, not the unit, bears responsibility for ensuring test validity. Councils may authorize units to conduct pre-event swim checks for council-led aquatics activities following procedures provided in the [Aquatics Management Guide](#).

Only forms authorized by the Council conducting the activity and distributed in that council's event guides should be used. Old generic forms or forms from a different Council are not valid. Refer to the [Aquatics Management Guide](#) for more detailed information and sample forms.

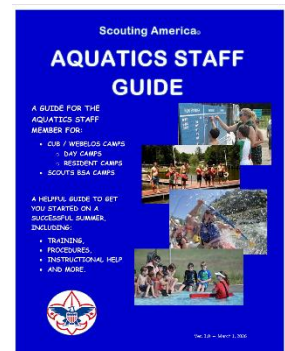
Local Council Aquatics Committee Starter Kit (2026 Update)

Learn about the duties outlined for a Council Aquatics Committee and how to integrate their efforts in your Council structure to support all aquatics activities. The *Scouting America Council Aquatics Committee Resource Kit* is both an invaluable guide to starting and maintaining an aquatics committee, as well as a critical ongoing resource for running a successful aquatics program.



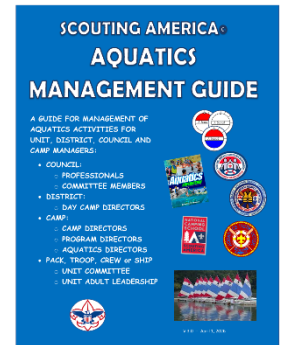
Aquatics Staff Guide (2026 Update)

The *Scouting America Aquatics Staff Guide* is intended to serve as a guide for those serving on aquatics staff at camps at all levels of Scouting. It will guide the new staff members through their first summer and, at the same time, provide a valuable reference for more experienced staffers. It is designed to make aquatics personnel better informed and better prepared to serve on your camp aquatics staff.



Aquatics Management Guide (2026 Update)

The Scouting America Aquatics Management Guide is intended to serve as a guide for those tasked with planning, developing, and delivering aquatics program at all levels of Scouting. It will provide guidance for Camp Management and Aquatics Directors while, at the same time, giving Council and District professionals and volunteers direction in developing exciting and safe aquatics programs.



SEA BASE AND SCUBAPRO TEAM

Sea Base is happy to announce we are now an authorized Scubapro dealer and will be providing Scubapro equipment to our participants. This includes a LEVEL BCD with an integrated weight system. The MK2 EVO regulator, a workhorse of the scuba industry, along with an R105 Octopus and a three gauge console that includes depth gauge, pressure gauge and compass. We are also offering the GO fins to our participants.

In addition to Scubapro, we will still be offering our Aqualung equipment to participants.



NAUTICED AND SCOUTING AMERICA'S SEA SCOUTS FORGE ALLIANCE

NauticEd, a leader in modern boating education, and Sea Scouts, the flagship aquatics and maritime program of Scouting America, have announced a nationwide partnership to inspire and prepare the next generation of boaters and maritime leaders. This collaboration combines NauticEd's cutting-edge digital learning platform with Sea Scouts' century-long legacy of character, competence, and service on the water. It's said that Sea Scouts are "Coast-to-Coast High Adventure In, On, Around, & Under the Water!"

"Education builds confidence, and confident young people become capable boaters and talented leaders," said Merrill Homann-Charette, chief marketing officer, NauticEd. "Together with Sea Scouts, we're expanding access to high-quality training and a community that keeps youth safely engaged on the water."

With over a century of experience, Sea Scouts brings a real-world, hands-on approach to seamanship, giving youth practical experience on the water, while NauticEd will enhance that foundation through innovative online learning opportunities. Together, this collaboration is committed to developing strong youth leadership, advancing seamanship skills, and promoting safe-boating practices nationwide through integrated educational resources, coordinated outreach, and recognition of leadership achievements.



<https://www.nauticed.org>



AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Paddlesports participation is currently at its highest level, with participation growing by nearly a million paddlers a year. Scouting is an important part of that growth.

ACA acknowledges the pivotal role that young paddlers play in recreational paddling, and strongly supports Scouting, including opportunities for:

- Connecting instructors, Scouting merit badge counselors, and Sea Scout Skippers
- Engaging Scouts in public policy and stewardship activity, and pursuing Scouting leadership experiences that directly benefit the community

ACA facilitates growth in the recreational paddling community through educational resources that are free and easy to use!



ACA offers skills development, skills assessment, instructor certification, and leader/guide certification courses in over 20 disciplines that span all types of water venues including flatwater, coastal/sea, surf zone, moving water, and whitewater.



ACA's Smart Start for Safe Paddling is a holistic program which features comprehensive books, student activity workbooks, free online coursework, facilitator's guide with presentation slides, and a wide collection of complementary resources. And it's free to use!



And don't forget ACA's outstanding video collection – all free and easily accessible! Some of the most watched:

- 3 Golden Rules for Recreational Kayaking for Beginners
- How To Transport Kayaks
- Top 5 Kayaking Tips and Skills
- 3 Kayaking Strokes You Need to Know
- Top 5 Kayaking Mistakes - Don't Learn These Lessons the Hard Way!
- Paddling Etiquette Around Boat Ramps
- Essential Gear All Paddlers Need to Carry on the Water
- Paddling With Other Boat Traffic in Multi-Use Waterways

For more information, visit the ACA website - <https://americancanoe.org>



NATIONAL AQUATICS SUBCOMMITTEE SILVER BUFFALO RECIPIENTS

It is with great pride we announce three of the current class of Silver Buffalo Awardees are associated with the National Aquatics Subcommittee! David Bell and Jay Fox currently serve on the committee and Michael Philbrook served for several years. The Silver Buffalo Award is the highest honor presented by Scouting America to individuals who have provided extraordinary service to youth at the national level. Jay, David and Michael are tremendous supporters of Scouting America Aquatics and have given thousands of hours of their time to help ensure we offer the best possible aquatics program to our scouts and leaders. Key achievements are highlighted below.



David W Bell

National Aquatics Subcommittee - current
National Camp School Aquatics Staff 1974 - present
Jamboree Aquatics Staff for 12 events 1985 - present
Primary author of Aquatics Supervision 2009 - 2025
Primary author of Lifesaving merit badge pamphlet 1980 -2025
Co-chair of Program Safety Subcommittee team that developed SAFE checklist 2020
Writer & director for Safe Swim Defense & Safety Afloat training videos 2011
Contributions to several other publications, initiatives, and conferences, including working with Water Safety & Drowning Prevention with American Red Cross, Water Safety USA, National Water Safety Action Plan, Model Aquatic Health Code, American Canoe Association, and National Drowning Prevention Alliance
Vigil Member Order of the Arrow

Dr Jay William Fox

National Aquatics Subcommittee - current
National Camp School Staff (Aquatics) 1973-present
National Jamboree Aquatics Vice Chair (2x) and Chair (2x)
Primary author of Swimming merit badge pamphlet
Regional NCAP Chair 2015-2019
Silver Antelope 20??
Silver Beaver 2013
Outstanding Eagle Scout 2015
Distinguished Eagle Scout 2021
Eagle Scout, June 6, 1966
Vigil Member Order of the Arrow 2010

Michael R Philbrook

National Aquatics Subcommittee

National Jamboree Scoutmaster 1993, 2001, Staff 1997, 2013, 2017

National Sea Scout Committee 2001-2019

William I Koch International Sea Scout Cup Staff 2004-2018, Chairman 2018

NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award 2013

Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award 2012

Silver Antelope 2011

Silver Beaver 1992

United States Power Squadrons Finley Sea Scout Service Award 2011

Venturing Leadership Award (Council-99) (Region-07)

OA Founders Award 1997

Eagle Scout 1979

Vigil Member Order of the Arrow 1990

The Silver Buffalo recipients will be recognized at the [**National Annual Meeting**](#), taking place May 11-15 in Dallas.



Silver Beaver



Silver Antelope



Silver Buffalo



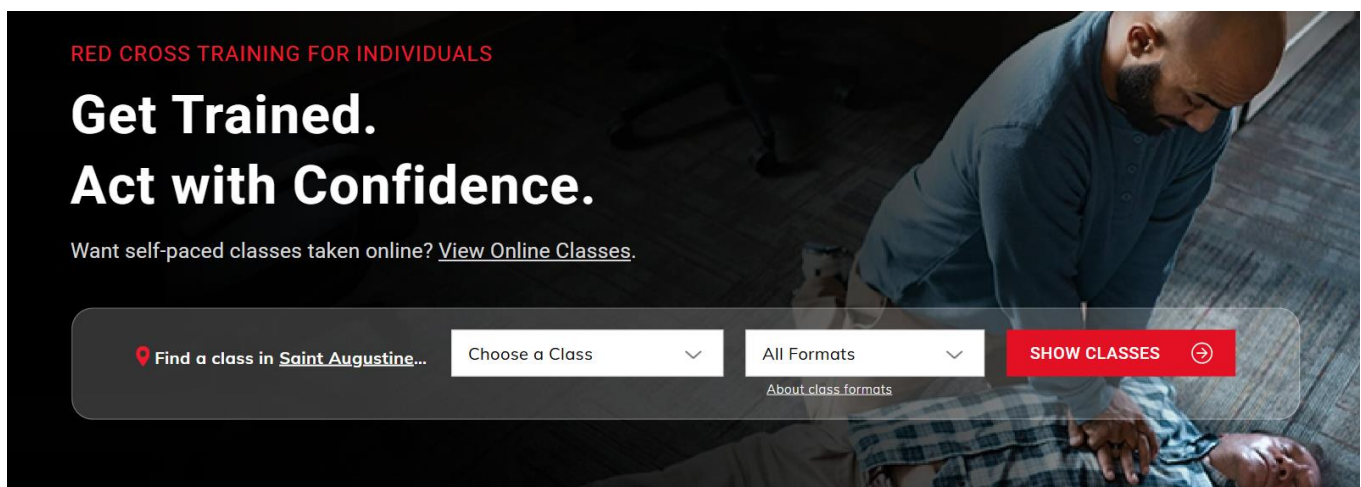
LOCATING A LIFEGUARD OR LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR COURSE

The American Red Cross offers critical lifeguard certification courses throughout the country. To locate a class in your area visit www.redcross.org/takeaclass.

Select the class type (e.g., Lifeguarding or Lifeguard Instructor), enter a ZIP code, and use the location mileage filter to expand search results. In many areas, there may be certified training providers who are not actively posting classes on the public website. In those cases, individuals can contact their council's Red Cross account representative, who has access to internal reporting and may be able to identify a local training provider or a nearby council with a certified instructor available.

If you do not know who your representative is, you may contact Sasha Bouchacra at sasha.bouchacra@redcross.org or 855-577-7138, ext. 110, and she will help point you in the right direction and/or provide you with resources.

The Red Cross also continues to offer Scouting America onsite group training for Lifeguarding, Lifeguard Instructor, and Lifeguard Instructor Crossover at a 50% discount (min. 5 participants for base level and min. 6 participants for instructor level). Availability is not guaranteed, so you must request a quote first; once submitted, our scheduling department will reach out regarding resource availability.

A banner for Red Cross training. The background is a dark, high-contrast photo of a man in a blue shirt performing a rescue on a person lying on the floor. The text "RED CROSS TRAINING FOR INDIVIDUALS" is in red at the top left. Below it, "Get Trained. Act with Confidence." is in large white font. Further down, "Want self-paced classes taken online? [View Online Classes.](#)" is in white. At the bottom is a search bar with a location field, two dropdown menus, and a "SHOW CLASSES" button.

RED CROSS TRAINING FOR INDIVIDUALS

**Get Trained.
Act with Confidence.**

Want self-paced classes taken online? [View Online Classes.](#)

Find a class in Saint Augustine... Choose a Class All Formats **SHOW CLASSES**

About class formats



AQUATICS AWARDS

Aquatics Awards are recognized as National Scouting America Awards, but are designed to be experiential, and are not related to advancement. All patches have been updated in accordance with Scouting America branding guidelines. The primary reference for these awards is Aquatics Supervision, which contains requirements and applications for all awards. **Council approval is needed to serve as an aquatics award counselor.** Awards are available to all Scouting America youth and adults who are members of Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout units! Record keeping for youth is managed through Scoutbook, while adult records are maintained by the Council registrar.

Awards include:

Boardsailing - Emblem, No. 664367, Pocket certificate, No. 620010

Kayaking - Emblem, No. 662788, Pocket certificate, No. 656843

Mile Swim - Emblem, No. 662787, Pocket certificate, No. 34246

Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) - Emblem, No. 662792, Pocket certificate, No. 656897

SCUBA - Emblem, No. 662979, Pocket certificate, No. 656845

Snorkeling - Emblem, No. 664366, Pocket certificate, No. 621533

Whitewater Rafting - Emblem, No. 662791, Pocket certificate, No. 641564



Responding to input from the field, Mile Swim requirements have been updated as follows:

1. Successfully complete the Scouting America swimmer test.
2. Learn through discussion and application how skill, stamina, stroke selection, and pace influence distance swimming.
3. Pre-qualify for the mile by either swimming continuously for 1/4 mile or otherwise demonstrating ability to the satisfaction of a counselor approved by the local council.
4. Swim one mile under safe conditions over a course approved by the counselor supervising the swim.



SAFETY MOMENT – CARING FOR YOUR AED

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a small, portable medical device that generates a shock that can jolt an irregularly beating heart into beating correctly. To ensure AEDs function properly when needed, regular inspections are required.

If you are tasked with maintaining an AED, follow the manufacturer's instructions on how and when to inspect the unit and replace batteries, pads, and electrodes. This information usually can be found in the instruction manual and/or online and should be followed carefully. Laws governing the use and care of AEDs vary by state and often change, so become familiar with your state/local AED regulations. Add these devices to your monthly check of emergency equipment—just like for fire extinguishers and other safety devices—so they will be ready in case of an emergency.



Most brands of AED units perform periodic self-tests. This will vary by brand and model. Many models will emit an alarm if there is an issue found during a self-test. **However, you should never rely solely on an AED's self-test.** Manual checks and inspections, all documented, should occur monthly or as often as the manufacturer suggests or state laws require. Batteries must remain in the AED while self-testing and manual testing. Otherwise, the AED might not function during an emergency.

The designated people maintaining an AED should check that the batteries and pads are intact and have not reached the expiration date. Many AEDs have a battery-life indicator. This should be checked as part of the routine inspection. Order replacements well in advance of any expiration date. Some AED batteries have an "Install By" date instead of an expiration date. Know when batteries need replacement and be sure to document that information. The manufacturer will have this information available. Keep in mind that environmental conditions (e.g., heat, humidity) might affect the AED, batteries, pads, and electrodes. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for proper AED storage.

It's rare, but recalls of AEDs and their components do occur. Register your AED and components to receive recall notices.

After any AED use, the pads must be replaced, as AED pads are single-use only. Check with the AED manufacturer and battery supplier for recommendations on battery replacement. There might be companies in your area that service AEDs for a fee.

To ensure readiness for use in the case of a sudden cardiac arrest, understand how to care for and maintain your AED, and ensure AED inspections are done regularly.



THE SCOUTING AMERICA NATIONAL AQUATICS SUBCOMMITTEE

The National Aquatics Subcommittee meets at least twice a year and has multiple ongoing projects aimed at helping you in support of your local aquatics programs.

This eNewsletter is one effort to keep you informed regarding what's going on in Scouting America aquatics.

*Direct information or inquiries regarding this newsletter or the National Aquatics Subcommittee to
outdoorprograms@scouting.org*

To subscribe to this newsletter, go to

[Aquatics Program | Scouting America \(scouting.org\)](#)

Useful information can be found on the Aquatics Resources page at: <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/forms/>

