

MERIT BADGE SERIES



MOTORBOATING



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

STEM-Based

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in motorboating activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.
 - b. Review prevention, symptoms, and first-aid treatment for the following injuries or illnesses that can occur while motorboating: cold-water shock and hypothermia, dehydration and heat-related illnesses, sunburn, and motion sickness.
 - c. Discuss the BSA Safety Afloat policy. Explain to your counselor how it applies to motorboating activities.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Before doing requirements 3 through 6, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test.
 - b. Review the characteristics of life jackets most appropriate for motorboating and why a life jacket must always be worn while participating in motorboating activities. Demonstrate how to select and properly fit the correct size life jacket.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Explain inboard, outboard, and inboard/outboard motors, and the uses and advantages of each. Discuss the special features of a bass boat and a ski boat.
 - b. Explain the safety procedures and precautions involving handling fuel and engine servicing, and equipment storage and placement.
 - c. Explain how to winterize a boat motor and tell why this procedure is necessary.
 - d. Explain the safety procedures and precautions involving swimmers and skiers in the water, passenger positions underway, and boat wakes.

4. Show you know safety laws for motorboating by doing the following:
 - a. Explain the rules or laws that apply to recreational boating in your area or state.
 - b. Have a permit to operate a motorboat, if required by the laws of your state. Discuss how you would find information regarding the boating laws in different states.
 - c. Discuss how the hazards of weather and heavy water conditions can affect both safety and performance in motorboating.
 - d. Discuss with your counselor the nautical rules of the road and describe the national and your state's aids to navigation.
 - e. Explain and show the correct use of equipment required by both state and federal regulations to be carried aboard a motorboat.
 - f. Explain federal and state rules for a ventilation system, and tell why these rules are required.
5. Demonstrate proper boat-handling procedures and skills by doing the following:
 - a. Fuel the boat and complete a safety check.
 - b. Board and assist others in boarding.
 - c. Get underway from dockside or from a beach launch.
 - d. Run a course for at least a mile, showing procedures for overtaking and passing slower craft, yielding right-of-way, passing oncoming traffic, making turns, reversing direction, and using navigation aids.
 - e. Stop and secure the boat in position on the open water using anchors; get underway.
 - f. Land or dock; get out and assist others.
 - g. Moor the boat and secure all gear.
6. Point out and explain the mechanical and safety features of a boat trailer. With others assisting, do the following:
 - a. Launch a boat from a trailer.
 - b. Remove a boat from the water using a trailer.

Motorboating Resources

Scouting Literature

Canoeing, First Aid, Fire Safety, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Pioneering, Rowing, Scuba Diving, Small-Boat Sailing, Swimming, Waterskiing, Weather, and *Whitewater* merit badge pamphlets; *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Fieldbook*

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

- Aarons, Richard N. *Small-Boat Seamanship Manual*. International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press, 2006.
- American Red Cross. *American Red Cross First Aid: Responding to Emergencies*. Staywell, 2007.
- Armstrong, Bob. *Getting Started in Powerboating*. International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press, 2005.
- Browne, Steven D. *Nautical Rules of the Road: The International and Inland Rules*, 4th ed. Cornell Maritime Press, 2006.
- Larkin, Frank J. *Basic Coastal Navigation: An Introduction to Piloting*, 2nd ed. Sheridan House, 1998.
- Low, Charles T. *Boat Docking: Close Quarters Maneuvering for Small Craft*. Harvey Island Enterprises, 1997.
- Maloney, Elbert S. *Chapman Piloting and Seamanship*, 67th ed. Hearst, 2013.
- Siminoff, Roger H. *Boating 101: Essential Lessons for Boaters*. International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press, 1999.
- Stagner, Eugene. *Understanding the Outboard Motor*, 3rd ed. Prentice Hall, 2002.
- Thompson, Luke. *Essential Boating for Teens*. Children's Press, 2000.
- U.S. Sailing Association. *Start Powerboating Right!* United States Sailing Association, 2011.

DVDs

The following DVDs are available from Bennett Marine Video (website: <http://bennettmarine.com>):

Back to the Basics of Boating

Back to the Basics: Improving Your Boating Skills and Knowledge

Back to the Basics: What to Do When Things Go Wrong

Boating Basics for First-Time Boaters

The Encyclopedia of Boating Tips

On-the-Water Boating Tips

100 Boating Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Top 60 Boat-Handling Tips

Organizations and Websites

North American Safe Boating Campaign

Website: <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com>

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Website: <http://www.cgaux.org>

U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Resource Center

Website: <http://www.uscgboating.org>

U.S. Sailing Association

15 Maritime Drive

P.O. Box 1260

Portsmouth, RI 02871-0907

Website: <http://www.ussailing.org>

Acknowledgments

This edition of the *Motorboating* merit badge pamphlet was written by K. Gregory Tucker, Readyville, Tennessee. The Boy Scouts of America thanks this devoted Scouter, who is a Silver Buffalo Award recipient and past BSA Health and Safety Committee chair. As a volunteer, Mr. Tucker has written or contributed to a number of merit badge pamphlets on aquatics and health-related topics.

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Photo and Illustration Credits

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(*Type I life jacket*)

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