



National Aquatics Task Force

National Outdoor Programs Team

Pat Noack

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2013 NATIONAL JAMBOREE – AQUATICS RE-CAP

The 2013 National Jamboree was held from July 15th to July 24th at The Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve, the BSA's newest high adventure base and permanent site of future Jamborees. The Summit is located near the New River Gorge National Park, in Mt. Hope, West Virginia.

More than 225 volunteers served on the Jamboree Aquatics staff and provided a safe and exciting aquatics program for Scouts and Venturers. There were seven Aquatics events and activities, including popular activities from prior Jamborees such as **Kayaking** and **Scuba**. The 2013 Jamboree also offered several new aquatics activities including **Stand-Up Paddle boarding**, **Dragon Boats** and **Water Reality**.

Stand-Up Paddleboarding is a sport in which a paddler stands on a board (similar to a surfboard or sailboard) and paddles the board on the water utilizing paddling skills similar to canoeing.

Water Reality is a water obstacle course where teams of four participants climb on, and over, various floating obstacles and complete the course in the shortest amount of time.

Dragon boats are long boats with 20 paddlers, a coxswain and a drummer. Dragon boats race against other boats for the fastest time over a course with paddlers paddling to the beat of a drum at the bow of each boat.

Another new activity was **Mariner's adventure**, organized and staffed by representatives of the Sea Scouts. Participants signed up for this curriculum-based program and were given advanced instruction in seamanship skills. We also offered opportunity for scouts and leaders to go swimming in the scuba pools at the end of most days.

Almost 44,000 Scouts and Venturers participated in aquatics events during the Jamboree, with many participating multiple times at multiple events. Water Reality had 7,915 participants, Dragon Boats had 8,306 participants and Kayaking (both basic and Curriculum-based) had 3,507 participants. Stand-up Paddle boarding had 9,258 participants, 781 enrolled in Mariner's adventure and 2,133 participated in swimming. The most popular aquatic event during the Jamboree was scuba with 12,389 participants in both the basic and advanced programs.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE JAMBOREES

During the four-year period from 2017 to 2021, the Summit will host three Jamborees! The next National Scout Jamboree will be 2017. In 2019, the BSA is hosting the World Scout Jamboree and this is a rare opportunity for Scouters to serve on a World Jamboree staff, right here in the U.S.! Two years later, in 2021, there is another National Scout Jamboree. We can assure you that whether you serve at one of the upcoming Jamborees, or at all three, you will find your experience at a Jamboree very rewarding.

We encourage anyone who is interested in Aquatics to serve on a future Jamboree Aquatics staff. Not only do we have



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opportunities for volunteers to serve as instructors, we also need volunteers to serve in a variety of support roles.

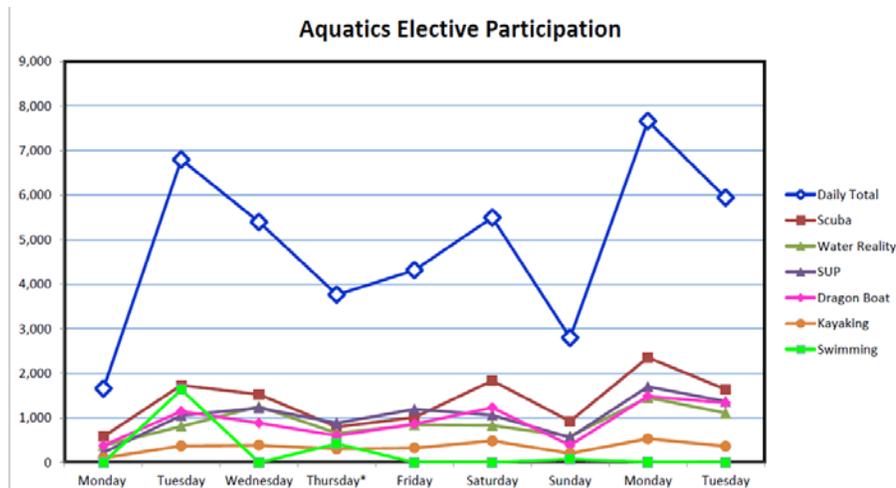
We will provide additional updates once the planning process for the 2017 National Jamboree commences.

THE JAMBOREE BY THE NUMBERS

2013 Jamboree Aquatics & Boating Participant Through-put										
Event	Daily Through-put Statistics									Cumulative Totals
	Monday 7/15/2013	Tuesday 7/16/2013	Wednesday 7/17/2013	Thursday* 7/18/2013	Friday 7/19/2013	Saturday 7/20/2013	Sunday 7/21/2013	Monday 7/22/2013	Tuesday 7/23/2013	
Water Reality	376	812	1,252	656	840	832	588	1455	1104	7915
Dragon Boat (East)	149	598	487	278	447	568	171	703	765	4166
Dragon Boat (West)	227	550	398	324	416	661	210	783	571	4140
Dragon Boat Total	376	1148	885	602	863	1229	381	1486	1336	8306
Kayaking (Elective)	99	368	324	200	231	398	144	387	288	2439
Kayaking (Curriculum)	0	0	63	101	95	84	58	142	75	618
Kayaking Total	99	368	387	301	326	482	202	529	363	3057
SUP	225	1049	1219	883	1,191	1058	562	1701	1370	9258
Mariner's Adventure	0	58	131	108	85	63	69	133	134	781
Scuba (Scuba BSA)	440	1326	1197	523	832	1636	922	1862	1329	10067
Scuba (advanced)	140	406	328	274	179	198	0	489	308	2322
Scuba Total	580	1732	1525	797	1011	1834	922	2351	1637	12389
Swimming	0	1,632	0	419	0	0	76	6	0	2133
Grand Total	1,656	6,799	5,399	3,766	4,316	5,498	2,800	7,661	5,944	43839

**Only 2 courses operating

* Thursday, 7/18 - Closed 5 hours due to thunder and lightning alerts





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STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING AWARD

BSA's newest aquatics award was showcased at the 2013 National Jamboree and received an enthusiastic reception. Over 9200 Scouts, Venturers, and adult leaders got a chance to experience America's fastest growing paddle sport. Now it's time for council aquatics committees and summer camp directors to consider adding stand up paddleboarding (SUP) to the program.

Here are some things to consider when adding an SUP program:

1. Qualified instructors should be able to teach the Stand Up Paddleboarding Award to Scouts in approximately 4 hours.
2. Inflatable boards have less chance of injury than hard boards; however inflatable boards may require daily topping off to maintain adequate inflation pressure.
3. Inflatable boards require special fittings for inflation to approximately 14 psi.
4. Paddles designed for stand up paddleboarding should be used. Don't try to save money by using a regular canoe paddle.
5. Paddle length is important. Adjustable paddles are a cost effective way to accommodate a variety of paddlers.
6. Make sure paddles float. If they don't, return them to the dealer for replacement or repair.

The Boy Scouts of America in partnership with the ACA has developed excellent materials for use with the Stand Up Paddleboarding Award. The 2-page flier, [no. 430-121](#), is well suited for use in promoting interest in the award. The 13-page brochure, [no. 430-189](#), is a concise

instructional resource for use by students and instructors. For additional information on SUPs and how to become an SUP instructor go to www.sup-aca.org.



CHANGES TO SCUBA BSA

Scuba BSA requirements were modified in 2012 to keep in step with the World Recreational Scuba Training Council guidelines for introductory scuba training experiences. While *Scuba BSA* No. 430-515 (2011 Printing) remains the definitive resource for Scuba BSA instruction, it has not yet been updated with the current requirements. The current requirements can be found in *Aquatics Supervision* No. 34346 (2013 Printing).

Two requirements have been removed from the previous version of Scuba BSA:

- a) 15. In shallow water, breathe underwater for at least 30 seconds from an alternate air source supplied by the instructor.
- b) 16. Demonstrate the techniques for a proper ascent.

One requirement has been added:

- a) 15. Describe how to avoid hazardous aquatic life (if applicable to your confined water location).

All other requirements remain the same.

Please ensure that you are using the current version of Scuba BSA requirements as found in *Aquatics Supervision*.