

# FACILITATORS GUIDE



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## Safety Afloat

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## Course Description

All BSA boating activities must be supervised by an adult age 21 or older who is trained in and committed to compliance with the nine points of BSA Safety Afloat. This course is one of only two approved options for adults to receive that training. Training consistency requires that both online and in-person formats provide the same essential content in the mandatory video segments.

The most common delivery option for this training is the online, mobile friendly, version via my.Scouting.org which is available 24/7 to accommodate individual schedules. That version also automatically updates the participant's training record.

However, the online version requires an internet connection which may not be available at some training sites, such as council summer camps. This course option may be downloaded to avoid that restriction.

The in-person version of the course also provides participants the opportunity to interact in a group environment and ask questions. Some participants may prefer and respond better to the chance to interact.

In this classroom setting, it is crucial that the facilitator only allows valid information to be imparted. The facilitator should be familiar with and have access during the session to both the current text of [Safety Afloat](#) in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and the BSA [Aquatics Supervision](#) guide that provide additional detail. In addition, the PowerPoint file can be used to repeat select content in the videos for clarification. If unambiguous answers to questions cannot be found in those resources, the facilitator should not allow individuals to present opinions as facts. Ideally, the facilitator will have training as a BSA Aquatics Instructor or a BSA Paddle Craft Safety Instructor.

In addition, the facilitator should also review the [Guide to Leader Training](#) and consult with the council service center for attendance and record keeping procedures.

## Class Objectives

After completing this training, participants will be able to:

- Identify important current safety concerns related to Safety Afloat
- Recognize the requirements associated with the nine Key Safety Points
- Identify options for skill training

## Target Audience

This course is targeted for mature and conscientious adults age 21 or older who will be supervising Safety Afloat BSA boating activities.

## Class Timeline: 55 minutes




<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Delivery Method(s)</b>
7 minutes	Introduction	Facilitator/Video
3 minutes	Qualified Supervision	Video
2 minutes	Personal Health Review	Video
2 minutes	Swimming Ability	Video
6 minutes	Life Jackets	Video
2 minutes	Buddy System	Video
3 minutes	Skill Proficiency	Video
3 minutes	Planning	Video
2 minutes	Equipment	Video
2 minutes	Discipline	Video
20 minutes	Course Quiz	Quiz/Answer Review
3 minutes	Conclusion	Video/Commitment
As time allows	Q&A	Facilitated discussion

## Preparation Checklist

- Open PowerPoint, and practice launching videos
- Review expected attendance
- Print Course Quizzes, Training Attendance Report and Fillable Training Cards
- Review this Class Facilitator Guide, [Safety Afloat](#) in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and [Aquatics Supervision](#).
- Set-up meeting location, check computer connections, visibility of projection screen, video volume, etc.

## Material for Distribution

- Course Quiz
- Training Attendance Report ([link](#))
- Certificates of Training cards ([link](#))

Time: 3 minutes	Introduction
  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Open and project the PowerPoint on the screen</b></li><li>• <b>Welcome each participant as they come into the classroom.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Feel free to paraphrase the comments written after each “SAY:” prompt to reflect your own conversational style.</b></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> My name is _____ and I will be serving as your facilitator today. We will be looking at several Safety Afloat videos and have a course quiz with related questions at the end. Let’s jump in!</p> <p><b>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Splash video.</b></p> <p><b>Note: Clicking directly on the videos will cause them to rewind and play again.</b></p>



**SAY:** We encourage you to follow these points of basic Classroom etiquette:

- Turn off email and phones and clear other distractions from your training area.
- Time is scheduled for questions and discussions, so please do not talk among yourselves as the videos are playing.

Following today's training session you will be presented with a completed training certificate pocket card ([No. 33767 link](#)).

This video provides a welcome to today's course. Let's watch:

**Click to advance the slide and click again and play the Introduction video.**



**SAY:** The next video addresses the vessels, venues and programs when Safety Afloat applies as well as pointing out the boating activities that are prohibited.

**Click to advance the slide and click again and play the Introduction video.**







**SAY:** Rather than a short review, in this class we will have one exam at the end. Now that you have had an overview of Safety Afloat guidelines, let's look at Qualified Supervision, the first point of Safety Afloat.



**Click to advance the slide and click again and play the Introduction video.**





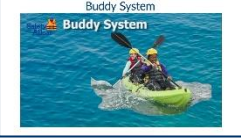

**SAY:** Now that you have had an overview of Safety Afloat guidelines, let's look at Qualified Supervision, the first point of Safety Afloat.



<b>Time: 3 minutes</b>	<b>Qualified Supervision</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the <b>Qualified Supervision video</b>.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> So, we reviewed the importance of training, skill and commitment to the safety of the Scouts in our care. Next let's consider the review of each participant's personal health history.</p>



<b>Time: 2 minutes</b>	<b>Personal Health Review</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the <b>Personal Health Review video</b>.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Reviewing each participant's personal health history is an important way to anticipate potential risks from individual health conditions. Let's look at the next point as we consider the BSA swimmer classification test.</p>



<b>Time: 2 minutes</b>	<b>Swimming Ability</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the <b>Swimming Ability video</b>.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> The next point highlights the importance of life jackets.</p>

<b>Time: 6 minutes</b>	<b>Life Jackets</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the <b>Life Jackets video</b>.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Now let's look at how the Buddy System works.</p>

<b>Time: 2 minutes</b>	<b>Buddy System</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Buddy System video.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> We have seen that in Safety Afloat the buddy system includes buddy boats. Next we will consider Skill Proficiency.</p>

<b>Time: 3 minutes</b>	<b>Skill Proficiency</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Skill Proficiency video.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> What role does Planning have? Let's watch and find out.</p>

<b>Time: 3 minutes</b>	<b>Planning</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Planning video.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Next, let's see the considerations involved in being prepared with the right equipment.</p>

<b>Time: 2 minutes</b>	<b>Equipment</b>
 	<p>Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Equipment video.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Since Scouts will be having fun, we need to keep an eye on maintaining discipline. For example, explaining the importance behind the rules should motivate Scouts to follow them. Let's watch and see what else is involved.</p>

**Time: 2 minutes**

**Discipline**



Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Discipline video.



**SAY:** Okay, now it is time for review of what we have been learning.

**Time: 20 minutes**

**Safety Afloat Course Quiz**



Click to advance slide to the Quiz.



**SAY:** I will hand out that course quiz I mentioned earlier. Mark your answers on the sheet by circling the letter of your answer choice. When everyone is finished, I will identify the correct answers. You will have about 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

- Be prepared to answer simple questions anyone may have relative to material they do not understand which might be covered on the quiz.
- Ask anyone who has a question during the quiz to raise their hand.
- Hand out the course quiz to each student.
- Track the time and let students know when there is about 5 minutes left.
- Call time and use the following notes to identify the correct answers and provide the explanations for why those answers are correct:



1. Completion of this training course in Safety Afloat is sufficient preparation for most boating activities.

- A. True
- B. False (Correct)

**SAY:** This statement is false. Safety Afloat requires leaders and participants to be adequately trained and experienced in the



specific boating activity and skills. Such learning is not provided in this training module.

2. Approved boating activities for Cub Scouts are the same as those for older youth members.

- A. True
- B. False (Correct)

**SAY:** This statement is false. Appropriate boating activities vary with age.

3. Some boating activities are prohibited regardless of youth and leader skills and experience.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. The Guide to Safe Scouting lists various boating activities that are not approved for Scout programs regardless of planning and preparation.

4. Any adult over 21 years of age who is trained in and committed to the nine points of Safety Afloat is authorized to serve as the Qualified Supervisor leading a boating activity.

- A. True
- B. False (Correct)

**SAY:** This statement is false. The Qualified Supervisor must also be skilled in the safe operation of the craft unless assisted by another adult who has those skills.





5. For a group of fifteen youth in a boating activity, the minimum number of trained leaders for Cub Scouts is:

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3 (Correct)

**SAY:** 3 is the minimum number of trained leaders needed. The ratio of leaders to youth is 1 to 5 for Cub Scouts.

6. For a group of 15 youth in a boating activity, the minimum number of trained leaders for Scouts BSA is:

- A. 1
- B. 2 (Correct)
- C. 3

**SAY:** 2 is the minimum number of trained leaders needed. The ratio of leaders to youth is 1 to 10 for Scouts BSA. Since 15 is over 10 and less than 21, a second leader is needed for the Scouts BSA group.

7. Participants in a boating activity lasting over 72 hours are required to have a current physical examination by a licensed health care provider.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. Part C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record is encouraged for all activities and is required for activities lasting longer than 72 hours.





8. Allowed participation in boating activities varies with swimming ability.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. Additional safety precautions are implemented for those with limited swimming ability.



9. For swimmers 13 and older in small craft on calm water, life jackets may be loosely stowed within easy reach.

- A. True
- B. False (Correct)

**SAY:** This statement is false. Though many states allow loose storage for those over 13, Safety Afloat requires that properly fitted, approved life jackets must be worn by everyone using small recreational boats.



10. Large vessels are not required to have buddy boats.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. Buddy boats are required for solo craft and encouraged for tandem boats, particularly on float trips. Boats large enough to hold several buddy pairs are not required to have a buddy boat.



11. A Scout who is a good swimmer but has never been in a kayak before may paddle a solo kayak with proper supervision and guidance.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. Skills are learned by doing. At some point in an instructional setting with only solo boats, Scouts are allowed to paddle by themselves, even if they haven't been on such a boat before.

12. A Scout who is a good swimmer but has never been in a kayak before may paddle a solo kayak on a river float trip so long as any rapids are Class II or below.

- A. True
- B. False (Correct)

**SAY:** This statement is false. Instruction or skill demonstration is required prior to a float trip. Advanced skills should not be attempted until basics are learned.

13. At a minimum, how long should boaters be kept off the water following the last incidence of thunder or lightning?

- A. 15 minutes
- B. 30 minutes (Correct)
- C. 60 minutes
- D. Depends on time between lightning and thunder

**SAY:** You should wait at least 30 minutes before leaving a safe area.





14. Properly designed and fitted helmets must be worn when using paddle craft on Class II moving water or higher.

- A. True (Correct)
- B. False

**SAY:** This statement is true. Helmets are required for rapids rated at Class II or above, but not for mild currents and gentle ripples.

15. Select the most appropriate answer. For supervision to be effective, what must be in place?

- A. Rules
- B. Consequences
- C. Punishment
- D. Discipline (Correct)

**SAY:** D is the preferred choice. Good discipline is a critical element for achieving effective supervision. Rules are unproductive if not followed. Positive measures are favored over punitive pressures.



**Time: 3 minutes**

**Conclusion**

Commitment Statement

\* I understand that successful participation of every person requires good and quality and to look quality in others is based on the experience, learning skills and experience.

\* I will follow the principles outlined in the course material whenever I am involved in a learning or training activity.

**Click to advance the slide and show the Commitment Statement. Read the statement on the slide aloud.**



**SAY:** If you agree with the commitment statement on this slide, please raise your hand.

Conclusion

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Safety Afloat

**Click to advance the slide and click again to play the Conclusion video.**

**Time: As  
Appropriate**

**Q & A Session**



Questions and Answers



**Click to advance the slide for Questions and Answers.**

**ASK:** Does anyone have any questions or comments?

- **For questions, it is appropriate to allow other participants to provide and discuss answers, so long as the facilitator guides everyone to the correct answer in the resource material at hand.**
- **If there is no clear answer, offer to get back to the audience later.**
- **As interest wanes or time advances, take one last question for the group, and offer to stay to discuss further with individuals after the group is dismissed.**

**Pass around the Training Attendance Report and provide a Certificate of Training to each student.**