



National Aquatics Task Force

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SPECIAL ISSUE

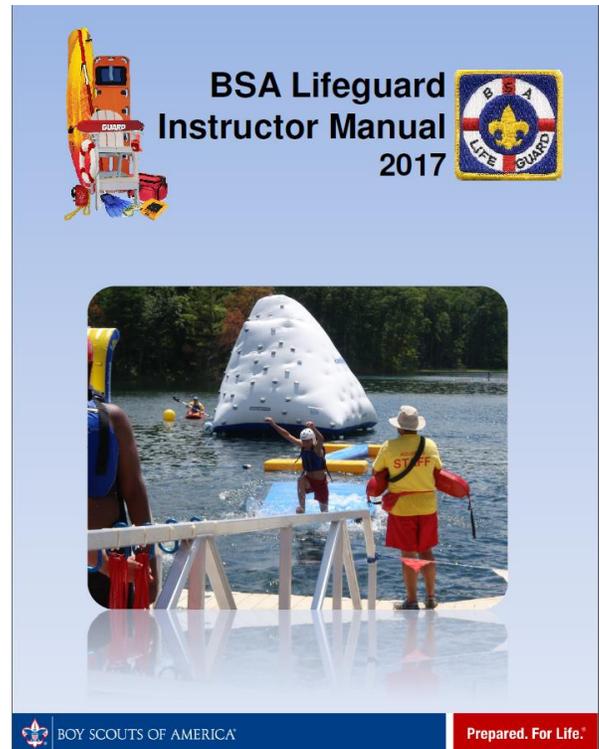
!!! 2017 BSA LIFEGUARD ROLLOUT !!!

The Outdoor Programs Group in conjunction with the Aquatics Task Force announces the release of revised [BSA Lifeguard requirements](#) and the companion [BSA Lifeguard Instructor Manual](#). The updated application and instructor manual are effective May 1, 2017, and may be accessed immediately in the Aquatics Resources section of Scouting.org. The previous BSA Lifeguard requirements may continue to be used through August 31, 2017. After this date, all applications for BSA Lifeguard and BSA Lifeguard Instructor must be submitted using the new requirements. All BSA Lifeguard certificates are valid for two years.

The new [BSA Lifeguard Instructors Manual](#) incorporates several changes in response to the industry's evolving standard of care and training requirements. Overall the course length has grown from 25 ½ hours to 27 hours.

Among the changes are:

- Revised course prerequisites - The backstroke and side stroke have been deleted as optional strokes from the 550 yard prerequisite skills.
- Safe Swim Defense Training is now required using the online training module as part of a blended learning component instead of taught as part of the course.
- Rescue tube entry into deep water and 25-yard swim in 25 seconds has been deleted.
- The time for the passive victim rescue (wrist tow) has been revised from two minutes to 90 seconds. The time for this skill was updated to more align with the industry standards.





- The spinal care on land requirements have been deleted – the Red Cross has deleted the standing takedown and non-standing backboarding on land from their program.
- All of the video reference time and content have been updated.
- Increased emphasis on emergency action plans (EAP's).
- Added a 'Victim School' lecture and practice to simulate to the student what victims look like in drowning situations.
- Added the new 'Unprofessional Lifeguard' video and discussion.
- Added content on Weather conditions.
- Added Lifeguard Station Response Drill
- Added Rescue drill
- Deleted the use of heaving lines as this is not a tool that a professional lifeguard uses. Also, took out references to belaying lines in swift water since the BSA Lifeguard program is not designed for swift water rescue.
- Updated the extrications to align with the ARC revisions.
- Deleted the Safety Afloat training requirements as BSA Lifeguard is a professional lifeguard certification. Details on how to operate a safe boating activity are not part of the context of lifeguard training. Professional lifeguard training programs of either the BSA or the ARC do not prepare staff to adequately supervise boating activities.
- Updated spinal injury management, inline stabilization, and extrication techniques to align with ARC revisions.

The revised program and instructor manual continues to reflect the partnership between the BSA and the American Red Cross (ARC) by utilizing training materials produced for the ARC *Lifeguarding* program and released in January 2017. Revised training materials may be purchased at <https://www.redcrossstore.org/>. Councils who have an Authorized Provider Agreement with the American Red Cross and corresponding ARC *Lifeguarding* instructors may access participant manuals and training videos online at no charge.





2017 Jamboree Staff

There is still time to join over 250 like-minded individuals on the aquatics staff at the 2017 National Jamboree – July 15-29 at the Summit.

Slots are available for all the aquatics activities: Kayaking, Scuba, SUP, and the Water Reality water obstacle course, with a particular need for certified lifeguards for Water Reality and instructors/support staff for SUP.

Never been on a stand-up paddleboard? Here's a chance to learn how while helping youth do the same.

Can't get that much time off? Half sessions (and fees) are available July 15-22 and July 22-29.



Please see www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers for details.



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