

## MAY 2015

Dear Roundtable Commissioner and Staff:

This **Aquatics for Cub Scouting** session is intended to replace the current **May Cub Scout Interest Topic** in the *Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Guide* (2014 – 2015).

With the launch of the new Cub Scout advancement program in June 2015, it was recognized that the current three sessions on the new program might not be enough to prepare all leaders for the launch of the new program.

These supplemental updates will be posted to [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) during the final week of each month.

What's Next:

June    Campfire Programs

July    Resources for Packs and Den Leaders

### TOPIC: Aquatics for Cub Scouting

Participants will learn the following:

- The role of aquatics in the new Cub Scouting program
- Aquatics-related adventures in the new Cub Scouts program
- Implementation considerations for aquatics programs

### Presentation Method

The topic is ideally presented as an onboarding session on the upcoming changes in the Cub Scouts program. In planning the presentation, you should review the latest materials posted at <http://www.scouting.org/programupdates>, which include PowerPoint presentations and handouts published by the National office. Below is a discussion outline that should also be of help in your planning.

The focus of this session reviews the aquatics program in Scouting and the aquatics-related adventures included in the new advancement and recognition program.

This presentation makes use of a set of PowerPoint slides with points for discussion presented below. If you do not have access to a video projector, the PowerPoint slides may be printed as handouts or the content may be transferred to chart paper for group presentation.

### OVERVIEW

On June 1, 2015, the new Cub Scouts program will be in effect. This will be the most significant change in the Cub Scouting program since the introduction of the current Webelos program in 1967. Over a six-month period, roundtable sessions will be produced to help all Cub Scout leaders prepare for the launch of the new program materials.

**SLIDE 1** Aquatics activities have been a part of the Scouting program since it began, and it is an important part of most summer camp programs. Swimming and boating safely are not only an enjoyable leisure activity, but could also save the life of a Scout, or someone else!

**SLIDE 2** Water Safety is a Critical Issue

- Every day, 2 children under 14 die from unintentional drowning
- Drowning is the fifth leading accidental cause of death in the US (CDC)
- Scouting events frequently involve water activities
- Scouting is a natural place to provide improvement in swimming abilities, both as an instructional body and as an experienced based skill
- We provide life skills to our Scouts on a variety of subjects – water safety is a natural fit!

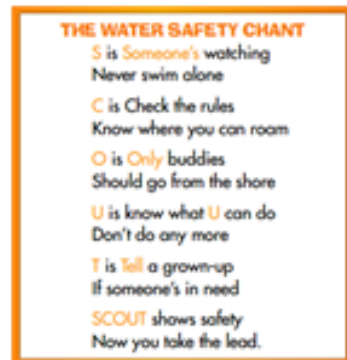
**SLIDE 3** Relevant Adventurers

The aquatics program is an active part of the new Cub Scout Adventure program electives:

- Tiger: “Floats and Boats” elective adventure
- Wolf: “Spirit of the Water” elective adventure
- Bear: “Salmon Run” elective adventure
- Webelos and Arrow of Light: “Aquanaut” elective adventure

**SLIDE 4** Requirements Overview – Floats and Boats

- So, here’s a look at “Floats and Boats”!
- You can see it covers:
  - Basic boat identification
  - Water safety –let’s try that safety chant!
  - Personal safety
  - Introduction to rescue techniques
  - Beginning swimming instruction



**SLIDE 5** Requirements Overview – Spirit of the Water

- Here is “Spirit of the Water” – the Wolf Elective
- For Wolf, we added some basic water conservation activities, personal fitness, and continued with:
  - Water safety
  - Basic rescue
  - Swimming ability

You can see the progressive skill instruction – as the Scout gets older, he learns a little more about each topic, reinforcing the previous information, and introducing new skills to keep it fresh!

## SLIDE 6

### Requirements Overview – Salmon Run

- Those constants continue as we move in the Bear elective – “Salmon Run”
- Included are:
  - More water safety, including proper equipment for boating
  - Basic instruction in rowing or paddling
  - More rescue instruction
  - Additional swimming activities including:
    - A trip to a pool
    - Basic swimming technique instruction
    - Learning about the BSA Swim Tests
    - An attempt at the “Beginner” (Red) swimmer test:

BEGINNER’S TEST: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before, and return to starting place.

## SLIDE 7 + SLIDE 8

### Requirements Overview - Aquanaut

- The Webelos and Arrow of Light “Aquanaut” elective adventure continues building on the previous year’s topics of:
  - Water Safety
  - Rescue
  - Swimming Skills
  - Ability Testing – Requirement 5 says “ Attempt the BSA Swimmer test”:

SWIMMER TEST: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

This is the “Blue” classification, and would allow full access to aquatics activities at summer camp. Wouldn’t it be great if every Webelos/Arrow of Light going into Boy Scouts was a “Blue” swimmer?

## SLIDE 9

### **Access to aquatics facilities may be an issue for many Packs.**

**Districts and Councils should support the earning of this elective by providing program support:**

#### **Cub Scouts “Swim Days”**

Cub Scouts can learn basic swim skills and improve on their ability level.

#### **Cub Scout Leader Training**

Provide aquatics Instructor training (Red Cross, or other agency training for swimming instruction) to Pack Leaders who want to serve as a resource to their unit and others.

### **Motivation**

Provide local recognition – patches, etc., to generally raise the level of aquatics skills in their local program.

#### **LOCAL CONTENT – IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE:**

- *This would be a great place to include information from your district activities committee or aquatics committee promoting a planned Cub Scouts Aquatics event in the coming year.*
- *Obtain information from your local council aquatics committee to help connect leaders with local resources.*

### **SLIDE 10**

BSA training – Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat is available through the MyScouting training site and can be taken any time!

#### **LOCAL CONTENT – IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE:**

- *Add any in-person training that may be available through your district or council.*
- *Please highlight any additional local resources that can be used as a resource for this adventure.*
- *Obtain information from your local council aquatics committee to help connect leaders with local resources.*
- *Provide on a separate handout.*

### **UPCOMING**

Next month, be sure to come back for an overview of the campfire programs and how they should be an important part of your unit's program.

Other materials coming out soon include:

- A "What's New" training module on E-Learning
- Updated position-specific training on E- Learning
- New youth handbooks and den leader guides in scout shops by May 1<sup>st</sup> and available as E-pubs on Amazon.com in both English and Spanish (30-45 days later).

### **CLOSING REMINDER**

For ongoing updates, visit <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx> for regular program updates and links to program materials and training opportunities.

### **Next Month**

Campfire Programs

### **Remaining Roundtable Cub Scout Topic Updates**

**June** Campfire Programs

**July** Resources for Packs and Den Leaders