

Longhouse Council Aquatics **Merit Badge Counselor required certifications**

In addition to the paperwork required for all merit badge counselors, please submit proof of current certification as indicated below for the aquatics badge(s) you wish to register to counsel.

All Aquatics merit badge counselors MUST be 21 years of age or older, and hold current CPR/AED and Basic First Aid certification. Additional certification requirements are as follows, per merit badge:

Swimming:

1. Current Safe Swim Defense (must be valid for 2 years)

Lifesaving:

1. Current Safe Swim Defense (must be valid for 2 years)
2. MUST be currently certified as: BSA Aquatics Instructor (must be valid for 5 years), BSA /Red Cross
3. Lifeguard Counselor (must be valid for 5 years), or be a BSA/Red Cross Lifeguard (must be valid for 3 years) or equivalent.

SCUBA Diving:

1. Current Safe Swim Defense (must be valid for 2 years)
2. MUST be a trained instructor certified by one of the following agencies: PADI, NAUI, SSI, IDEA, PDIC or SDI (for description of acronyms of recognized agencies, refer to BSA Aquatics Safety: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss02.aspx>).

Watersports:

1. Current Safe Swim Defense (must be valid for 2 years)

Canoeing:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)
2. Current Instructor certification:
 - a. BSA Aquatics Instructor (must be valid for 5 years) or
 - b. Canoeing Instructor from the American Red Cross (ACR), the American Canoe Association (ACA), or equivalent.
 - c. Alternatively, individuals previously certified, or individuals trained by a qualified instructor, may be approved.
 - d. Council may offer from time-to-time, an on-the-water skills program

designed to provide Instructor certification if combined with completion of an on-line ACA course in Paddlesports Safety.

Kayaking:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)
2. Current Instructor certification as:
 - a. BSA Aquatics Instructor (must be valid for 5 years),
 - b. BSA Paddle Craft Safety Instructor, or
 - c. Kayaking instructor, by the ACA, British Canoe Union, ACR, or equivalent.
 - d. Alternatively individuals previously certified or individuals trained by a qualified instructor, may be approved.
 - e. Council may offer from time-to-time, an on-the-water skills program designed to provide Instructor certification if combined with completion of an on-line ACA course in Paddlesports Safety.

Rowing:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)
2. MUST be currently certified as BSA Aquatics Instructor (must be valid for 5 years) or equivalent.
3. Alternatively individuals previously certified or individuals trained by a qualified instructor.

Whitewater:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)
2. MUST be currently certified as instructor by the American Canoe Association in whitewater canoeing or kayaking, or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

Motorboating:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)
2. MUST hold certification as Instructor in boater safety from either the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or equivalent.

Small Boat Sailing:

1. Current Safety Afloat (must be valid for 2 years)

Aquatics merit badge counselors: MBC's are encouraged to attend either:

- BSA Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue (for Swimming, Lifesaving, SCUBA, and Watersports) and/or
- BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety (for Canoeing, Kayaking, Whitewater, Motorboating, Small Boat Sailing).

BSA References:

- BSA Guide to Advancement – current edition: (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>)
- BSA Aquatics Safety (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss02.aspx>)

Contact: Council Aquatics Committee, Martin Godzwon, Chair (mgodzwon@yahoo.com)