



Rowing

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2007, Workbook updated: April 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

1. Show that you know first aid for and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur while rowing, including cold and heat reactions, _____

dehydration, _____

contusions, _____

lacerations, _____

and blisters. _____

2. Do the following:

a. Identify the conditions that must exist before performing CPR on a person. _____

Explain how such conditions are recognized. _____

b. *Demonstrate* proper technique for performing CPR using a training device approved by your counselor. _____

3. Before doing the following requirements, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test. Jump feetfirst into water over your head in depth. Level off and 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 completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating. _____

4. Review and discuss Safety Afloat _____

and *demonstrate* the proper fit and use of personal flotation devices (PFDs). _____

5. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Alone or with a passenger, do the following correctly in either a fixed-seat or sliding-seat rowboat:
 1. Launch _____
 2. Row in a straight line for a quarter mile. Stop, make a pivot turn, and return to the starting point. _____
 3. Backwater in a straight line for 50 yards. Make a turn under way and return to the starting point. _____
 4. Land and moor or rack your craft. _____
 5. Tie the following mooring knots:
 - clove hitch, bowline, and mooring hitch.
 - roundturn with two half hitches, Wellman's knot,
- b. Participate as a rowing team member in a competitive rowing meet. The team may be sponsored by a school, club, or Scout unit. The meet must include competition between two or more teams with different sponsors. Complete at least 10 hours of team practice prior to the meet. _____

6. Do ONE of the following:

- a. In a fixed-seat rowboat, come alongside a dock and help a passenger into the boat. Pull away from the dock, change positions with your passenger, and scull in good form over the stern for 10 yards, including at least one 180-degree turn. Resume your rowing position, return alongside the pier, and help your passenger out of the boat.
- b. In a sliding-seat rowboat, come alongside a pier and, with your buddy assisting you, get out onto the pier. Help your buddy into the boat. Reverse roles with your buddy and repeat the procedure.

7. Participate in a swamped boat drill, including righting and stabilizing the craft, reboarding in deep water, and making headway. Tell why you should stay with a swamped boat. _____

8. Alone in a rowboat, push off from the shore or a dock. Row 10 yards to a swimmer. While giving instructions to the swimmer, turn the boat so that the swimmer can hold onto the stern. Tow him to shore. _____

9. Show or explain the proper use of anchors for rowboats. _____

10. Describe the following:

a. Types of crafts used in commercial, _____

competitive, _____

and recreational rowing. _____

b. Four common boat building materials.

Material **Give some positive and negative points of each.**

c. Types of oarlocks used in competitive, _____

and recreational rowing. _____

11. Discuss the following:

a. The advantage of feathering oars while rowing _____

b. Precautions regarding strong winds and heavy waves, _____

and boat-handling procedures in rough water and windstorms. _____

c. How to properly fit out and maintain a boat in season, _____

and how to prepare and store a boat for winter _____

d. How to calculate the weight a boat can carry under normal conditions _____

e. The differences between fixed-seat _____

and sliding-seat rowing _____

f. The different meanings of the term sculling in fixed- _____

and sliding-seat rowing _____

g. The health benefits from rowing for exercise _____

Online Resources (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) 📺 [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org **Merit Badge Books:** www.scoutstuff.org
[ExpertVillage First Aid Videos](#) 📺 [Make a First Aid Kit](#) 📺 [Basics](#) 📺 [Basics2](#) 📺 [CPR Basics](#) 📺 [Venomous Snake Bite](#)
[ExpertVillage Swimming Lesson Videos](#) 📺 [Tread Water](#) 📺 [Basics](#) 📺 [Freestyle](#) 📺 [Breaststroke](#) 📺 [Backstroke](#)

American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org>

Rowing News: <http://www.rowingnews.com>

Amateur Rowing Association: <http://www.ara-rowing.org>

Rowers Almanac: <http://www.roversalmanac.com>

USRowing: <http://www.usrowing.org>

World Rowing: <http://www.fisa.org>

YMCA: <http://www.ymca.net/>

SAFE SWIM DEFENSE

Before a BSA group may engage in swimming activities of any kind, a minimum of one adult leader must complete Safe Swim Defense training, have a commitment card (No. 34243) with them, and agree to use the eight defenses in this plan. One of the best opportunities for Safe Swim Defense training is in summer camp. The eight defenses are:

1. Qualified Supervision

All swimming activity must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of youth members in his or her care, who is experienced in the water and confident of his or her ability to respond in the event of an emergency, and who is trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of BSA Safe Swim Defense. (It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained as a BSA Lifeguard to assist in the planning and conduct of all swimming activity.)

2. Physical Fitness

Require evidence of fitness for swimming activity with a complete health history from physician, parent, or legal guardian. The adult supervisor should adjust all supervision, discipline, and protection to anticipate any potential risks associated with individual health conditions. In the event of any significant health conditions, an examination by a physician should be required by the adult supervisor. Those with physical disabilities can enjoy and benefit from aquatics if the disabilities are known and necessary precautions are taken.

3. Safe Area

When swimming in areas not regularly maintained and used for swimming activity, have lifeguards and swimmers systematically examine the bottom of the swimming area to determine varying depths, currents, deep holes, rocks, and stumps. Mark off the area for three groups: not more than 3 1/2 feet deep for nonswimmers; from shallow water to just over the head for beginners; deep water not over 12 feet for swimmers. A participant should not be permitted to swim in an area where he cannot readily recover and maintain his footing, or cannot maintain his position on the water, because of swimming ability or water flow. When setting up a safe swimming area in natural waters, use poles stuck in the bottom, or plastic bottles, balloons, or sticks attached to rock anchors with twine for boundary markers. Enclose nonswimmer and beginner areas with buoy lines (twine and floats) between markers. Mark the outer bounds of the swimmer's area with floats. Be sure that clear-water depth is at least 7 feet before allowing anyone to dive into the water. Diving is prohibited from any height more than 40 inches above the water surface; feet-first entry is prohibited from more than 60 inches above the water. For any entry from more than 18 inches above the water surface, clear-water depth must be 10 to 12 feet. Only surface swimming is permitted in turbid water. Swimming is not permitted in water more than 12 feet deep, in turbid water where poor visibility and depth would interfere with emergency recognition or prompt rescue, or in whitewater, unless all participants wear appropriate personal flotation devices and the supervisor determines that swimming with personal flotation equipment is safe under the circumstances.

4. Lifeguards on Duty

Swim only where there are lifeguards on duty. For unit swims in areas where lifeguards are not provided by others, the supervisor should designate two capable swimmers as lifeguards. Station them ashore, equipped with a lifeline (a 100-foot length of 3/8-inch nylon cord). In an emergency, one carries out the line; the other feeds it out from shore, then pulls in his partner and the person being helped. In addition, if a boat is available, have two people, preferably capable swimmers, take it out—one rowing and the other equipped with a 10-foot pole or extra oar. Provide one guard for every 10 people in the water, and adjust the number and positioning of guards as needed to protect the particular area and activity.

5. Lookout

Station a lookout on the shore where it is possible to see and hear everything in all areas. The lookout may be the adult in charge of the swim and may give the buddy signals.

6. Ability Groups

Divide into three ability groups: Nonswimmers, beginners, and swimmers. Keep each group in its own area. Nonswimmers have not passed a swimming test. Beginners must pass this test: jump feetfirst 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 the starting place. Swimmers must pass this test: jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and 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 completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating. These classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the season.

7. Buddy System

Pair every youth with another in the same ability group. Buddies check in and out of the swimming area together. Emphasize that each buddy lifeguards his buddy. Check everyone in the water about every 10 minutes, or as needed to keep the buddies together. The adult in charge signals for a buddy check with a single blast of a whistle or ring of a bell, and call "Buddies!" The adult counts slowly to 10 while buddies join and raise hands and remain still and silent. Guards check all areas, count the pairs, and compare the total with the number known to be in the water. Signal two blasts or bells to resume swimming. Signal three blasts or bells for checkout.

8. Discipline

Be sure everyone understands and agrees that swimming is allowed only with proper supervision and use of the complete Safe Swim Defense. The applicable rules should be presented and learned prior to the outing, and should be reviewed for all participants at the water's edge just before the swimming activity begins. Scouts should respect and follow all directions and rules of the adult supervisor. When people know the reason for rules and procedures they are more likely to follow them. Be strict and fair, showing no favoritism.