

# The New BSA Aquatics Program

## CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL, BSA

The National Aquatics Task Force has recommended several changes to the BSA Aquatics adult training program. These changes were approved, effective January 2008, by the National Health and Safety Committee and the National Program Committee.

As always, it is the intent of Capitol Area Council to provide the best program available. Toward that end the new Aquatics Program for the Capitol Area Council is as follows:



### COUNCIL AQUATICS COMMITTEE

The Aquatics Committee has overall responsibility for the local council's aquatic activities

#### Responsibilities

1. Training
2. Program
3. Advancement
4. Safety
5. Development of Aquatic Leadership

Capitol Area Council is forming its Aquatics Committee for the first time. Interested volunteers or inquiries may be directed to Dean Woodley ([liveoak@texas.net](mailto:liveoak@texas.net))



### AQUATICS INSTRUCTOR, BSA

Aquatics Instructor, BSA, remains the highest level of training offered in the BSA aquatics program.

- Required of Summer Camp and Day Camps Aquatics Directors.
- Only available by completion of training at a National Camping School.



### BSA LIFEGUARD

For many years BSA Lifeguard has served two purposes -- skill training for adult leaders supervising unit activities and training for summer camp aquatics staff.

Over the years, the aquatics program has become more complex and the expected standard of care has been more clearly defined by government agencies. One program can no longer serve two purposes.

Closely aligned with American Red Cross Lifeguarding, the new focus of BSA Lifeguard is that of professional lifeguarding -- mainly for summer camp Aquatics Staff.



### AQUATICS SUPERVISION: SWIMMING AND WATER RESCUE

AND

### AQUATICS SUPERVISION: PADDLE CRAFT SAFETY



These are the two new adult training programs focused on providing the skill training for "qualified supervision" of BSA unit aquatics activities.

Both programs build on the policy and procedure training provided in Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

These courses are highly recommended for unit leadership, both adults and older youth, whenever a unit swims at a location without professional lifeguards or undertakes a boating expedition.



### SAFE SWIM DEFENSE

And



### SAFETY AFLOAT

*Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat* remain the required training for supervision of unit swimming and boating activities.

Except for some changes in wording, *Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat* remain unchanged.

They define *standard operating procedures* for BSA swimming and boating activities and the *standard of care* expected of unit leadership.

This training allows a conscientious leader to assess his/her ability to adequately supervise unit aquatics activities.



### TRAININGS FOR 2009

**Safe Swim Defense** and **Safety Afloat** will be offered as usual -- at summer camp, on-line, and as arranged for local or district training.

**Aquatic Supervision: Paddlecraft Safety** is being offered in the spring and again in the fall.

**Aquatic Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue** is being offered in the spring and again in the fall.

While it is open to adults and older youth, **BSA Lifeguard** is currently being offered only to summer camp aquatics staff. An open course is being considered for the spring.