

Local Council Aquatics Committee

Organizational Structure

The Aquatics Committee has overall responsibility for the local council's Aquatic activities in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing and Exploring. Within the local council organization the Aquatics Committee reports to either the Vice President of Program or to the Vice President of Health and Safety. The Aquatics Committee may be a separate committee or sub-committee within the Program or Health and Safety Committees.

Members of the Aquatics Committee should either be experienced Scouters with a background in aquatics or aquatics specialists interested in becoming involved in the Scouting program. The committee should include at least one individual with a current National Camping School Aquatics Instructor, BSA training card.

In addition to swimming and water-rescue specialists the committee should include specialists for the type of aquatics activities prevalent in the local council (e.g., snorkeling/scuba, canoe tripping, sailing, whitewater, crew rowing, waterskiing, Sea Scouts, etc.) Select committee members should either be members of or liaisons to other Council committees that touch the Aquatics Committees' areas of responsibility including Training, Advancement, Health & Safety, Camping, etc.

Summer Camp Aquatics Directors should be ex-officio members of the committee during the term of their employment and afterwards encouraged to become full-time, year-round volunteer members.

The Aquatics Committee's main responsibilities include the following year-round activities tailored to the local council's aquatic activities and opportunities:

Training – Work with the Council Training Committee to provide aquatics training for adults and youth.

Program – Provide and promote a broad array of basic and high-adventure swimming and boating activities to support all parts of the Scouting program.

Advancement – Provide advancement opportunities for youth.

Safety – Actively assess safe operation of Council and District led aquatics activities including summer camp and promote aquatics safety at the Unit level.

Attraction, Development and Retention of Aquatic Leadership -- A primary role of the committee is attracting, developing and retaining qualified Aquatic Leadership for the training, program, advancement and safety activities above. This includes summer camp and year-round Council and District led aquatics activities and should include succession planning for key roles.

Advancement

Cub Scout electives and Sports Award for Swimming
Webelos Aquanaut
Second Class and First Class requirements
Swimming and Lifesaving Merit Badge clinics (non-summer camp)
Canoeing Merit Badge (non-summer camp)

Safety

Promotion of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat at the District and Unit level
Pre-camp Swim Classification Testing
Review of Council and District safety training and procedures for aquatics activities including day and resident camps
Inspection of Summer Camp and other Council and District aquatics activities facilities and equipment

Attraction, Development and Retention of Aquatic Leadership

Develop and maintain enough qualified instructors, distributed throughout the council, to timely meet all local aquatic training needs
Assist with sourcing qualified candidates for council aquatic program and safety leadership needs.
Assist with interviewing candidates to ensure necessary aquatics experience, training certificates and aquatics leadership exists
Establish a succession planning process identifying the next Aquatics Leaders for key roles
Establish a program to train, develop and retain younger aquatics staff members to become aquatics leaders in the future. This includes staff for summer camp and year-round Council and District led aquatics activities. The staff training process for summer camp staff ideally would begin in the January to April time period each year to ensure that a well trained aquatics staff exists prior to arrival at summer camp.