

Snorkeling, BSA Application

Name of Applicant _____

Council _____

Unit Number _____

Name of Counselor _____

Qualification _____

Signature _____

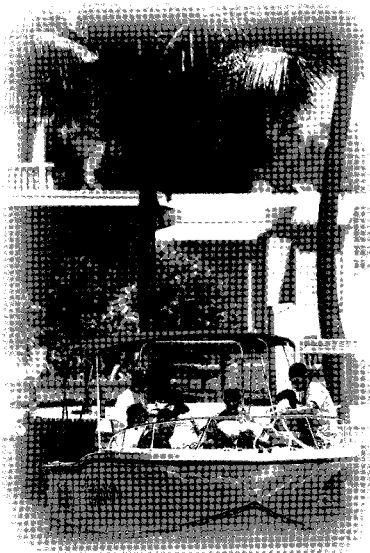
Date _____

Requirements

1. Before doing other requirements, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test: Jump feetfirst 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 completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.
2. Discuss the importance of the buddy system in all aquatics activities, and explain specifically how the buddy is to be used at all times in snorkeling, beginning with the fitting and adjusting of equipment.
3. Define snorkel swimming and diving; explain the function, fit, and selection of mask, fins, and snorkel. Explain circumstances in which an inflatable flotation vest should be worn for snorkeling.
4. In confined, shallow (waist-deep) water, demonstrate the following:
 - (a) Defogging a mask; equalizing pressure in your mask, ears, and sinus cavities.
 - (b) Using a snorkel, including the clearing of water at the surface and resuming free breathing without removing the snorkel from your mouth.
5. In confined, shallow (waist-deep) water, demonstrate the use of swim fins: (**Note:** Requirements should first be completed using only fins, and then repeated while wearing a mask and snorkel.)
 - (a) Fit and adjust fins to feet.
 - (b) Swim at the surface (10 yards) and underwater (three yards) using the flutter kick.
 - (c) Control direction without using your hands while swimming with fins at the surface and underwater.
6. In confined, deep water (maximum 12 feet), demonstrate:
 - (a) Proper techniques for entering and exiting the water while wearing snorkeling equipment.
 - (b) Headfirst and feetfirst surface dives, including proper body position for safe ascent and descent.
7. Using mask, fins, and snorkel, you and a buddy swim in a confined area of clear water 8 to 12 feet deep that has a firm bottom:
 - (a) Locate and recover from the bottom an object weighing approximately 10 pounds.
 - (b) Locate and recover from the bottom an object approximately the size of an automobile ignition key.
8. Demonstrate the following basic survival skills:
 - (a) Motionless, facedown floating for five minutes while breathing through a snorkel.
 - (b) Survival floating for five minutes without the use of a snorkel.
 - (c) Show how to support your buddy who is in need of assistance.
 - (d) Show how to move your buddy who is exhausted or unconscious to safety.
9. Explain how the eight points of BSA Snorkeling Safety apply to snorkeling activities in confined clear water and open water exceeding 12 feet deep. Explain environmental factors that affect snorkeling and discuss special precautions needed for each of the following environments: ocean, stream, and lake.
10. Explain pressure, buoyancy, and submerged optics and acoustics related to snorkel swimming and diving.
11. Discuss the effects of submersion in water on the body and how to handle potentially dangerous situations. What is cardiopulmonary resuscitation and under what circumstances should it be used?
12. Understand and explain hyperventilation.
13. Understand and explain hypothermia.
14. Explain and demonstrate the following:
 - (a) Divers' signs and signals, both audible and visual, for use at the surface and underwater.
 - (b) Diver-down flag. Set out a diver-down flag and explain its function.
 - (c) Equipment markings.
 - (d) Discuss entry and egress from motor vessels.

Information for Counselors

Purpose The Snorkeling, BSA requirements have been developed to introduce Scout-age children to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with snorkeling; to encourage the development of aquatics skills that promote fitness and recreation; and to provide a solid skills and knowledge foundation for those who later will participate in more advanced underwater activity.



Counselors

Any individual trained and assigned by a trained Aquatics Instructor, BSA may serve as a counselor for the Snorkeling, BSA award. A person recognized and certified as a snorkeling instructor by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), American Red Cross, or Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) also qualifies as a Snorkeling, BSA counselor.

Recognition

The individual completing the official requirements will receive a recognition card and swimsuit patch. The completed award application should be submitted to the local council service center by the counselor or unit leader.

Programming

Instruction must be conducted in clear, confined water with a maximum 12-foot depth. A swimming pool is recommended. Snorkeling, BSA is ideally suited to winter programs using indoor pools. Three 45-minute sessions are recommended for instruction, practice, and completion of requirements.

References

The *Swimming* merit badge pamphlet is an excellent reference for Snorkeling, BSA. A number of useful publications are also available from NAUI, PADI, the Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics, and others. Such publications are available through local dive shops.

Requirements

All requirements must be completed as stated on the application form. The counselor may not omit, vary, or add requirements. The requirements are presented in the order in which they should be taught to the Scout.

The second requirement considers the time-honored and time-proven principle of the buddy system. Snorkelers and divers must use the buddy system at all times. Before beginning the activity, each person helps his buddy fit and check the equipment. The principle of the buddy system is that two people can enjoy an aquatic activity together while each provides the critical margin of safety for the other. Each buddy must always be aware of the condition and circumstances of his buddy, and must always be prepared to give immediate assistance if needed.