



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

Troop Aquatics

Safety Afloat

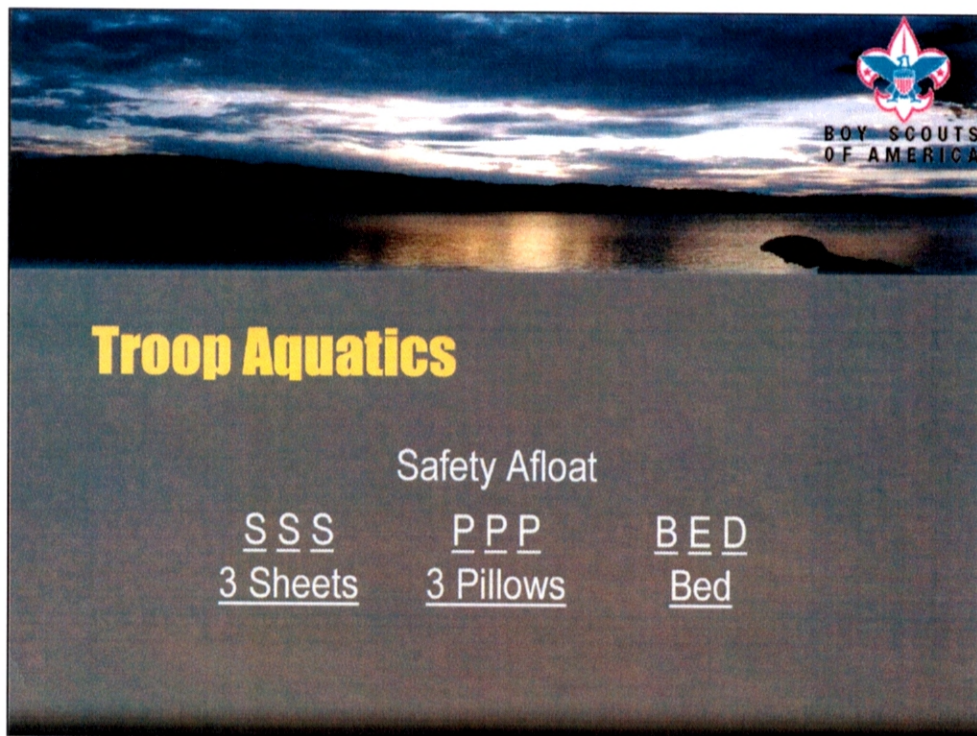
Presentation Prepared

By

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Safety Afloat



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

- ⇒ Supervision
- ⇒ Skills Proficiency
- ⇒ Swimming Ability
- ⇒ Physical Fitness
- ⇒ PFD
- ⇒ Planning
- ⇒ Buddy System
- ⇒ Equipment
- ⇒ Discipline



BOY SCOUTS
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Safety Afloat

⇒ Supervision

- Mature 21+ year old
- Skillful with watercraft
- Accepts Responsibility
- Rescue Methods
- 18+ year old
- Committed to the 9 Points of Safety Afloat
- 1 to 10 and 1 to 5
- CPR



Be sure to emphasize the benefits of getting B.S.A. Lifeguard assistance in planning and implementing the event.

"Will the event be safer with the help in planning?"



Safety Afloat

➔ Skills Proficiency

- Minimum skill for MB
- Emergency Procedures
- Craft to be used
- 3hrs. Training & Practice
- PFD instruction
- Whitewater Instruction
- Powerboat Rules
- Cub Scout Rules



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Check the merit badge books for the min. skill proficiency.

Learn how to handle the craft to be used for the outing.

Whitewater requirements... must be trained by a whitewater specialist (see also Guide to Safe Scouting).

Must meet State Certification and Motor-boating MB requirements.

Cub Scouts must limit canoeing and rafting to District and Council events on flatwater with no powerboats and sailboats.

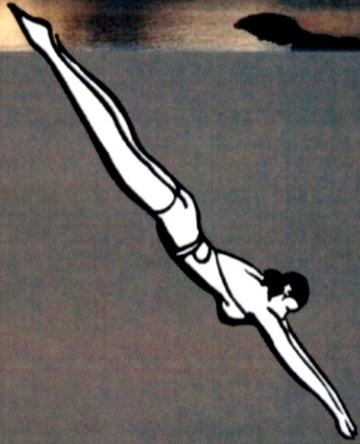


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➡ Swimming Ability

- Pass BSA Swim Test
 - 100 yards
 - ♦ 75 any forward stroke
 - ♦ 25 resting stroke
 - ♦ Float
- Exceptions
- Cub Scout Swim Test



Be sure to explain exceptions clearly-Beginners and non-swimmers may ride in canoes and sailboats with lifeguard only. At summer camp, Beginners and non-swimmers may row rowboats. All other events, only swimmers may participate in activities afloat (non-swimmers may still ride).

Safety Afloat



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Physical Fitness

- Medical Re-check
- Health Forms
 - Class I
 - Class II
 - Class III
- Supervision Adjustments
- Significant Health Concerns & Exam by Physician



Every Scout must have these health forms! Class 2 is sufficient for most activities if they are not considered high adventure.

For Serious Medical Concerns:

Parents should also be consulted about abilities of the scout if there are serious medical concerns. Parents should be informed in detail what types of activities, skills will be needed for the activity afloat. Every effort should be made to help include everyone that can participate.



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➡ Personal Flotation Device

- PFD
 - Type I, II, III, IV, V
- Styles
 - Ski, Canoe, Fishing
- Who Wears them?



Describe different types (or bring examples) of PFD. Explain how to use. Emphasize that **EVERYONE** wears them at all times while in watercraft – no exceptions.

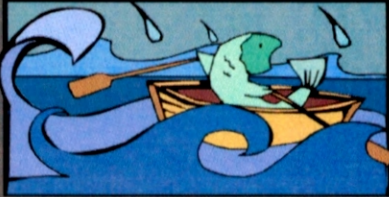


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➡ Planning

- Float Plan
 - “Put in” & “Take Out”
 - Course, Stopovers, Time
 - Accurate Maps
 - Run the course prior
- Local Rules
 - Local, Regional, National
 - Fishing, Border Crossing...



Times should be estimated generously. Talk to people who have traveled the route prior to your visit.

Discuss Tour Permits (Local and National). Mention Border Crossing issues into Canada. Mention waterway rules and agencies where this information can be found.

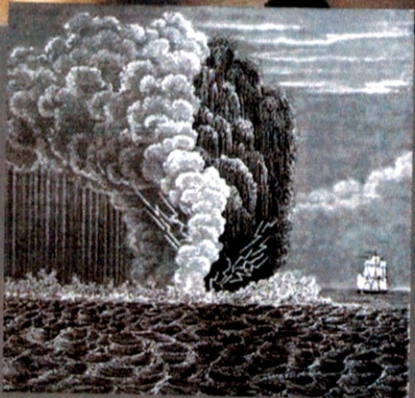
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⇒ Planning

- Notification
 - Parents
 - Unit Committee
 - Council (running water)
 - Coast Guard, State Police, Park Personnel
- Weather
 - Check before you go
 - Have a plan "Just in case"



Notification depends on where you are going. Ask for participants to volunteer places. Discuss "who should know".

Safety Afloat



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➡ Planning

- Contingencies
 - Plan for Emergencies
 - Plan for other possible problems
 - Have a Contingency Plan!
- Cub Scout
 - NO "Trips/Expeditions"
 - NO Running Water
 - Clear Skies, No Wind, Warm Air and Water



Emergencies – broken leg, heart attack, the “hurry cases”...

Other Problems – equipment failure, weather problems....

Contingency Plan – what do we do next?

Contingency plans should be in writing.



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⇒ Buddy System

- At least one person looking out for the Scout.
- Buddy Boats
 - Need to See and Hear
 - Close Proximity



Common sense should apply to the proximity of the boats (across the lake is not acceptable). Also "supervision" should be a reasonable distance away as well (see and hear is a good rule of thumb).



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➔ Equipment

- Suited to the Craft/Water
- Correct Size
- Good Repair
- Meet Coast Guard Regulations
- Spare Equipment
- Repair Equipment/Parts
- Rescue Equipment



No oars in canoes.

Scouts come in lots of different sizes.

Duct tape

Rope, throw bags etc.

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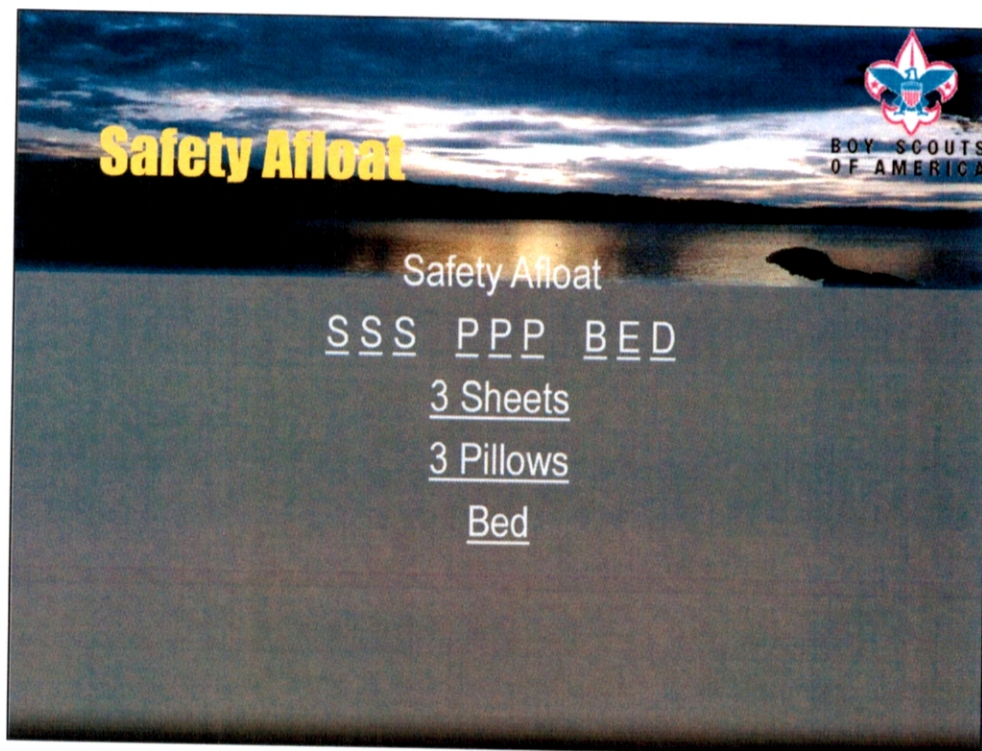


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⇒ Discipline

- Know, Understand and Respect the Rules
- Help the Boys to Understand the Rules
- Enforce Rules Fairly
- Use Common Sense





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Thanks for watching.
The End

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