



# BSA Canoe Paddle Craft Safety Certification



## PRESENTED BY VOYAGEUR

**Crossroads of America Council  
Boy Scouts of America**

### What is BSA Canoe Paddle Craft Safety Certification and Who may earn it ?

#### Purpose

Float trips are popular Boy Scout and Venturing activities. Safety Afloat awareness training provides guidelines for safe float trips and is required of unit leaders, but does not provide the skill training mandated by those guidelines. BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety expands Safety Afloat training to include skills, as well as knowledge, to prepare a unit leader to confidently supervise canoeing excursions on flat water. It is open to any registered Scout or Scouter who is age 16 or older. The training must be conducted by a council-approved instructor, takes roughly eight hours, and is valid for three years.

Adult and youth first aid training, including CPR, is an important safety consideration for all Scouting activities, not just boating. Specific first aid training is not included in the Paddle Craft Safety course, with the expectation that the leader has addressed that need separately, as noted in the course material and on the training card.

Float trips that last overnight also require camping skills. Because Scouting emphasizes outdoor skills in many programs, only items specific to canoeing are reviewed in this course material.

#### Requirements

- Age and physical fitness:
  - Be age 16 years or older prior to training.
  - Submit written evidence of physical fitness.
- Complete the BSA swimmer 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.
- Personal safety skills:
  - Select a PFD of appropriate size and demonstrate proper fit.
  - Demonstrate the feet-up floating position used if caught in a current.
  - Demonstrate H.E.L.P. and Huddle positions.
  - Capsize and swim a boat to shore.
  - Exit and reenter the craft in deep water.
- Basic boating skills: Demonstrate the following maneuvers on calm water using standard stroke techniques:
  - Transport boat from rack or trailer to water's edge.
  - Safely board and launch the craft.
  - Travel in a straight line for 50 yards.
  - Stop the craft.
  - From the stop, move the boat sideways, first to the right, then to the left.
  - From the stop, pivot the boat to the right, then to the left.
  - Return to shore along a curved course demonstrating both left and right turns while under way.
  - Land, safely exit, and store the craft.
- Group safety skills:
  - Throw a rescue bag, laying the line within 3 feet of an object 30 feet away.
  - Demonstrate a boat rescue of a swimmer.
  - Demonstrate an on-water boat-over-boat assist.

6. Correctly answer 80 percent of the questions on the Paddle Craft Safety written exam covering Safety Afloat, trip preparation, emergency action plans, and basic boating knowledge. Review any incomplete or incorrect answers.

\*Skills may be demonstrated either tandem in a canoe. Each participant must demonstrate the skills from the bow and the stern positions.

## How can you obtain the new BSA Canoe Paddle Craft Safety Certification ?

1. Adult leaders are encouraged to attend the Voyageur Adult Leader Training program (conducted at Camp Belzer twice each year). All certification requirements (except the swimmer test) are taught during the course, and certification testing is conducted.
2. Adults who have completed the four-day Voyageur training program may need only return for their fifth (returnee / assistant instructor) day, and pass the written test at the end of the day after a review of material.
3. Adults who have completed all five days of the Voyageur training program (have obtained the Instructor Arc) within the previous three years (six courses) need only return the second Saturday of a scheduled course, and pass the written test after a review of the material.
4. Adult leaders and youth members who are confident they can pass the performance and written requirements may "challenge" the test.

**CHALLENGE TESTING** is conducted the second Saturday of each Voyageur Adult Leader Training Course by the Voyageur staff at Camp Belzer on the east side of Indianapolis.

**Challenge Test Dates:**

**Spring Class 2013-** May 11

**Fall Class of 2013 -** September 14

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**Location:**

Camp Belzer

6102 Boy Scout Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46226

- What to bring: Sturdy shoes (no sandals) **you will get wet.** Complete change of dry clothes and shoes. Canoeing gear: 25' long 3/8" rope (not polypropylene), brimmed hat, sun screen, long sleeve shirt and pants (not jeans or sweats), bug dope, rain gear, big sponge on a 6' cord, sun glasses, glasses strap, water bottle. Documentation of swimmer test (from your unit). Completed Health Form.
- Check in at the Voyageur Hut by 7:30 a.m. You should complete by 5:00 p.m.
- Your registration form (below) and payment must be received at least four days prior to the test date.

Questions? Contact  
Dave Bardos  
[dbardos@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:dbardos@ccs.k12.in.us)  
317-844-3223

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNCIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_  
REGISTRATION (member) # \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ Registered Position \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Crossroads of America Council, BSA  
7125 Fall Creek Road North  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

Fee for the one day Paddle Craft Safety Certification  
test "challenge" is \$15.00  
Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **CAM# 6VYCT**