

**BSA Troop 410**  
**Great Salt Lake Council, Utah**  
**Rental Agreement for**  
**Canoe Trailer and Related Property**

This Rental Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, in Salt Lake City, Utah, by and between BSA Troop 410, of the Great Salt Lake Council, Utah, 2375 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 **and** BSA Troop \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council, Utah, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Utah \_\_\_\_\_, by and through their undersigned leaders and/or representatives. BSA Troop \_\_\_\_\_ shall hereinafter be referred to as the BSA Renter Troop, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BSA Troop 410 and BSA Renter Troop hereby agree as follows:

BSA Troop 410 is the owner of a Canoe Trailer and related equipment, generally described as the trailer, canoes and kayaks, paddles, life jackets and related materials. A complete listing of the personal property (“Canoe Trailer and Equipment”) which is the subject of this Rental Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BSA Troop 410 hereby agrees to rent the use of the Canoe Trailer and Equipment to BSA Renter Troop for \_\_\_\_ days, commencing on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and ending on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and only for the BSA Approved Outing to \_\_\_\_\_ and as set forth in an approved BSA Tour Permit. A copy of the BSA Tour Permit bearing approval by the Great Salt Lake Council is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

BSA Renter Troop shall follow in all respects the BSA Aquatics Safety Requirements applicable to the BSA Approved Outing as set forth on its BSA Tour Permit. Excerpts from the BSA Aquatics Safety Requirements are attached hereto as Exhibit C, and BSA Renter Troop shall follow **all** of these requirements during its use of Canoe Trailer and Equipment.

Without intending to limit the necessity that BSA Renter Troop follow all of the BSA Aquatics Safety Requirements, BSA Renter Troop shall, in particular, assure that only its registered Scouts that have passed the BSA Swimmer Test use or ride in the subject canoes and/or kayaks in full accord with *Safety Afloat*, paragraph 3 Swimming Ability, **and** assure that all Scouts, both Youth and Adults, wear a proper PFD in full accord with *Safety Afloat*, paragraph 4, Personal Floatation Equipment, during the use of and/or riding in the subject canoes and/or kayaks. See Exhibit C, pages 4 through 6, for the *Safety Afloat* requirements.

BSA Renter Troop shall pay to BSA Troop 410, in advance of delivery of the Canoe Trailer and Equipment, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as rent for use only by the BSA Renter Troop of the Canoe Trailer and Equipment for the \_\_\_\_ days specified hereinabove.

BSA Renter Troop shall pay to BSA Troop 410, in addition to the rental rate specified in the preceding paragraph, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, as a Security Deposit for the Canoe Trailer and Equipment. This security deposit shall also be paid in advance of delivery of the Canoe Trailer and Equipment to BSA Renter Troop.

BSA Renter Troop shall return the Canoe Trailer and Equipment to BSA Troop 410 at its above-designated address by no later than \_\_\_\_ PM/AM on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, in the same condition as received from BSA Troop 410, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

In the event BSA Renter Troop does not return the Canoe Trailer and Equipment to BSA Troop 410 by the agreed upon date and time, and TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, BSA Troop 410 reserves the right to charge an additional \$75 late rental rate for each 24-hour period, or portion thereof, said return is late, and said sum may be deducted from the Security Deposit before returning the remaining balance to the BSA Renter Troop.

In the event BSA Renter Troop does not return the Canoe Trailer and Equipment to BSA Troop 410 in the same condition as received from BSA Troop 410, ordinary wear and tear excepted,

then BSA Renter Troop shall forfeit return of the Security Deposit, or portion thereof, sufficient to repair or replace any damaged or missing portion of the Canoe Trailer and Equipment as described in Exhibit A. The agreed replacement values for the Canoe Trailer and Equipment are set forth in said Exhibit A.

In the event the Security Deposit is insufficient to repair or replace the damaged or missing items, then BSA Renter Troop shall be financially responsible to BSA Troop 410 and shall pay any additional sums needed beyond the Security Deposit to complete the repairs or replacement of the damaged or missing items from the Canoe Trailer and Equipment as described in Exhibit A. The agreed replacement values for the Canoe Trailer and Equipment are set forth in said Exhibit A.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: BSA RENTER TROOP ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS RISKS, SOME INHERENT AND OTHERS NOT, ASSOCIATED WITH ITS RENTAL, POSSESSION, USE AND RETURN OF THE SUBJECT CANOE TRAILER AND EQUIPMENT, AND BSA RENTER TROOP HEREBY AGREES TO FULLY ASSUME ALL OF THOSE RISKS, AND FURTHER TO INDEMNIFY BSA TROOP 410 AGAINST ALL SUCH ASSUMED RISKS, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, REAL OR IMAGINED, AND/OR DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SUBJECT CANOE TRAILER AND EQUIPMENT, ITS RENTAL, POSSESSION, USE AND/OR RETURN.

INDEMNIFICATION: BSA RENTER TROOP AGREES TO FULLY INDEMNIFY AND HOLD BSA TROOP 410, ITS LEADERS, ITS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, ACTIONS, PROCEEDINGS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, COSTS AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FEES, FROM ANY AND ALL INJURIES AND/OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON, OR DAMAGE TO ANY PROPERTY OCCURRING OR ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, SAID BSA RENTER TROOP'S POSSESSION, USE AND/OR RETURN OF THE CANOE TRAILER AND EQUIPMENT.

This Rental Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Utah and shall be deemed executed in Salt Lake City, Utah. In the event of a dispute, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its attorney's fees from the other in addition to all other damages and/or relief.

This document and its exhibits constitute the entire agreement between the parties with regard to the subject matter of this Rental Agreement, and it may not be changed without the mutual written consent of both parties.

**By signing below, each person represents and warrants that he/she has authority to execute this Rental Agreement on behalf of the respective BSA Troop and its sponsoring organization. Two signatures are required on behalf of each BSA Troop.**

**BSA Troop 410**

**BSA Troop \_\_\_\_\_ (BSA Renter Troop)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exhibit A

Canoe Trailer	Trailer	3/1/2008	used - good	4/7/2008	\$	4,000.00	
Daggar legend 15 Canoe	Boat	3/1/2008	used - good	4/7/2008	\$	800.00	
Old Town - White Water Canoe	Boat	6/1/2008	used - good	6/1/2008	\$	1,000.00	
Mad River explorer 16 TT Canoe	Boat	3/1/2008	used - good	4/7/2008	\$	1,000.00	
Coleman Canoe	Boat	3/1/2008	used - fair	4/7/2008	\$	350.00	
Lrg. Fiberglass Canoe	Boat	3/1/2008	used - good	4/7/2008	\$	1,200.00	
Fiberglass Kayak	Boat	3/1/2008	used - fair	4/7/2008	\$	400.00	
Old Town Fiber Glass Kayak	Boat	5/12/2008	used -good	5/12/2008	\$	500.00	
Kayak - small red	Boat	6/1/2008	used -fair	6/1/2008	\$	600.00	
Kayak - small blue	Boat	6/1/2008	used -fair	6/1/2008	\$	600.00	
Spray Skirt	Watersports	6/1/2008	used -fair	6/1/2008	\$	50.00	
Spray Skirt	Watersports	6/1/2008	used -fair	6/1/2008	\$	50.00	
Life Jackets - 20	Watersports	3/15/2008	New	3/15/2008	\$	280.00	\$14/ea
14 - Aluminum Paddles	Watersports	5/1/2008	New	5/1/2008	\$	280.00	\$20/ea
1 - Wood Paddle	Watersports	5/15/2008	Used - Fair	5/15/2008	\$	20.00	
1 – Kayak Paddle – 2 piece	Watersports	5/1/2008	New	5/1/2008	\$	40.00	
2 - Kayak Paddle - 1 piece	Watersports	5/1/2008	Used - good	5/1/2008	\$	40.00	
1 - cargo net	Watersports	5/12/2008	New	5/12/2008	\$	30.00	
1- tarp	Watersports	5/12/2008	New	5/12/2008	\$	15.00	
16 - 12' straps - Canoe Tie Downs	Watersports	5/13/2008	New	5/13/2008	\$	96.00	\$6/ea.
Total Value of Canoe Trailer					\$	11,351.00	

## Exhibit C

### BSA Aquatics Safety Requirements

<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss02.aspx>

#### Safe Swim Defense

Before a BSA group may engage in swimming activities of any kind, a minimum of one adult leader must complete Safe Swim Defense training, have a commitment card (No. 34243) with them, and agree to use the eight defenses in this plan.

One of the best opportunities for Safe Swim Defense training is in summer camp. The eight defenses are:

##### 1. Qualified Supervision

All swimming activity must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of youth members in his or her care, who is experienced in the water and confident of his or her ability to respond in the event of an emergency, and who is trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of BSA Safe Swim Defense. (It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained as a BSA Lifeguard to assist in the planning and conduct of all swimming activity.)

##### 2. Physical Fitness

Require evidence of fitness for swimming activity with a complete health history from physician, parent, or legal guardian. The adult supervisor should adjust all supervision, discipline, and protection to anticipate any potential risks associated with individual health conditions. In the event of any significant health conditions, an examination by a physician should be required by the adult supervisor.

Those with physical disabilities can enjoy and benefit from aquatics if the disabilities are known and necessary precautions are taken.

##### 3. Safe Area

When swimming in areas not regularly maintained and used for swimming activity, have lifeguards and swimmers systematically examine the bottom of the swimming area to determine varying depths, currents, deep holes, rocks, and stumps. **Mark off the area for three groups: not more than 3 1/2 feet deep for non-swimmers; from shallow water to just over the head for beginners; deep water not over 12 feet for swimmers.** A participant should not be permitted to swim in an area where he cannot readily recover and maintain his footing, or cannot maintain his position on the water, because of swimming ability or water flow. When setting up a safe swimming area in natural waters, use poles stuck in the bottom, or plastic bottles, balloons, or sticks attached to rock anchors with twine for boundary markers. Enclose non-swimmer and beginner areas with buoy lines (twine and floats) between markers. Mark the outer bounds of the swimmer's area with floats. Be sure that clear-water



depth is at least 7 feet before allowing anyone to dive into the water. Diving is prohibited from any height more than 40 inches above the water surface; feet-first entry is prohibited from more than 60 inches above the water. For any entry from more than 18 inches above the water surface, clear-water depth must be 10 to 12 feet. Only surface swimming is permitted in turbid water. Swimming is not permitted in water more than 12 feet deep, in turbid water where poor visibility and depth would interfere with emergency recognition or prompt rescue, or in whitewater, unless all participants wear appropriate personal flotation devices and the supervisor determines that swimming with personal flotation equipment is safe under the circumstances.

#### 4. Lifeguards on Duty

**Swim only where there are lifeguards on duty. For unit swims in areas where lifeguards are not provided by others, the supervisor should designate two capable swimmers as lifeguards.** Station them ashore, equipped with a lifeline (a 100-foot length of 3/8-inch nylon cord). In an emergency, one carries out the line; the other feeds it out from shore, then pulls in his partner and the person being helped. In addition, if a boat is available, have two people, preferably capable swimmers, take it out—one rowing and the other equipped with a 10-foot pole or extra oar. Provide one guard for every 10 people in the water, and adjust the number and positioning of guards as needed to protect the particular area and activity.

#### 5. Lookout

Station a lookout on the shore where it is possible to see and hear everything in all areas. The lookout may be the adult in charge of the swim and may give the buddy signals.

#### 6. Ability Groups

Divide into three ability groups: Non-swimmers, beginners, and swimmers. Keep each group in its own area. Non-swimmers have not passed a swimming test. Beginners must pass this test: jump feet-first into water over the head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before and return to the starting place. Swimmers must pass this 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. These classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the season.

#### 7. Buddy System

**Pair every youth with another in the same ability group.** Buddies check in and out of the swimming area together. Emphasize that each buddy lifeguards his buddy. Check everyone in the water about every 10 minutes, or as needed to keep the buddies together. The adult in charge signals for a buddy check with a single blast of a whistle or ring of a bell, and call "Buddies!" The adult counts slowly to 10 while buddies join and raise hands and remain still and silent. Guards check all areas, count the pairs, and compare the total with the number known to be in the water. Signal two blasts or bells to resume swimming. Signal three blasts or bells for checkout.

#### 8. Discipline

Be sure everyone understands and agrees that **swimming is allowed only with proper supervision and use of the complete Safe Swim Defense.** The applicable rules should be presented and learned prior to the outing, and should be reviewed for all participants at the water's edge just before the swimming activity begins. Scouts should respect and follow all directions and rules of the adult supervisor. When people know the reason for rules and procedures they are more likely to follow them. Be strict and fair, showing no favoritism.

Reference: Safe Swim Defense, No. 34370 and in the Online Learning Center

## Classification of Swimming Ability

### Swimmer Test

The swimmer test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep-water swimming. The various components of the test evaluate the several skills essential to this minimum level of swimming ability:

**Jump feet first into water over your head in depth. 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 swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.**

The test administrator must objectively evaluate the individual performance of the test, and in so doing should keep in mind the purpose of each test element.

1. "Jump feet first into water over your in depth, ...  
The swimmer must be able to make an abrupt entry into deep water and begin swimming without any aids. Walking in from shallow water, easing in from the edge or down a ladder, pushing off from side or bottom, and gaining forward momentum by diving do not satisfy this requirement.
2. "...Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl..."  
The swimmer must be able to cover distance with a strong, confident stroke. The 75 yards must not be the outer limit of the swimmer's ability; completion of the distance should show sufficient stamina to avoid undue risks. Dog-paddling and strokes repeatedly interrupted and restarted are not sufficient; underwater swimming is not permitted. The itemized strokes are inclusive. Any strong side or breaststroke or any strong overarm stroke (including the back crawl) is acceptable.
3. "...swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke..."  
The swimmer must perform a restful, free-breathing backstroke that can be used to avoid exhaustion during swimming activity. This element of the test necessarily follows the more strenuous swimming activity to show that the swimmer is, in fact, able to use the backstroke as a relief from exertion. The change of stroke must be accomplished in deep water without any push-off or other aid. Any variation of the elementary backstroke may suffice if it clearly allows the swimmer to rest and regain wind.
4. "...The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn..."  
The total distance is to be covered without rest stops. The sharp turn demonstrates the swimmer's ability to reverse direction in deep water without assistance or push-off from side or bottom.
5. "...After completing the swim, rest by floating."  
This critically important part of the test evaluates the swimmer's ability to maintain himself in the water indefinitely even though exhausted or otherwise unable to continue swimming. Treading water or swimming in place will further tire the swimmer and therefore is unacceptable. The duration of the float test is not significant, except that it must be long enough for the test administrator to determine that the swimmer is resting and likely could continue to do so for a prolonged period. Drownproofing may be sufficient if clearly restful, but it is not preferred. If the test is completed except for the floating requirement, the swimmer may be retested on the floating only (after instruction) provided that the test administrator is confident that the swimmer can initiate the float when exhausted.

Reference: Swimming and Lifesaving merit badge pamphlets

### Safety Afloat

Safety Afloat has been developed to promote boating and boating safety and to set standards for safe unit activity afloat. Before a BSA group may engage in an excursion, expedition, or trip on the water





(canoe, raft, sailboat, motorboat, rowboat, floating in an inner tube, or other craft), adult leaders for such activity must complete Safety Afloat Training, No. 34159, have a commitment card, No. 34242, with them, and be dedicated to full compliance with all nine points of Safety Afloat.

### **1. Qualified Supervision**

All activity afloat must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the children in his or her care, who is experienced and qualified in the particular watercraft skills and equipment involved in the activity, and who is committed to compliance with the nine points of BSA Safety Afloat. One such supervisor is required for each 10 people, with a minimum of two adults for any one group. At least one supervisor must be age 21 or older, and the remaining supervisors must be age 18 or older. All supervisors must complete BSA Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training and rescue training for the type of watercraft to be used in the activity, and at least one must be trained in CPR. It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained as a BSA Lifeguard to assist in the planning and conducting of all activity afloat.

For Cub Scouts: The ratio of adult supervisors to participants is *one to five*.

### **2. Physical Fitness**

All persons must present evidence of fitness by a complete health history from a physician, parent, or legal guardian. Adjust all supervision, discipline, and protection to anticipate any risks associated with individual health conditions. In the event of any significant health conditions, a medical evaluation by a physician should be required by the adult leader.

### **3. Swimming Ability**

A person who has not been classified as a "swimmer" may ride as a passenger in a rowboat or motorboat with an adult swimmer, or in a canoe, raft, or sailboat with an adult who is trained as a lifeguard or a lifesaver by a recognized agency. In all other circumstances, the person must be a swimmer to participate in an activity afloat. Swimmers must pass this test:

Jump feet first into water over your head. 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 swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating. This qualification test should be renewed annually.

### **4. Personal Flotation Equipment**

Properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be worn by all persons engaged in activity on the open water (rowing, canoeing, sailing, boardsailing, motor boating, waterskiing, rafting, tubing, kayaking, and surfboarding). Type II and III PFDs are recommended.

### **5. Buddy System**

All activity afloat necessitates using the buddy system. Not only must every individual have a buddy, but every craft should have a "buddy boat" when on the water.

### **6. Skill Proficiency**

All participants in activity afloat must be trained and experienced in watercraft handling skills, safety, and emergency procedures. (a) For unit activity on white water, all participants must complete special training by a BSA Aquatics Instructor or qualified whitewater specialist. (b) Powerboat operators must be able to meet requirements for the Motor boating merit badge or equivalent. (c) Except for whitewater and powerboat operation as noted above, either a minimum of three hours' training and supervised practice or meeting requirements for "basic handling tests" is required for all float trips or open-water excursions using unpowered craft. (d) Motorized personal watercraft, such as the Jet Ski® and SeaDoo®, are not authorized for use in Scouting aquatics, and their use should not be permitted in or near BSA program areas.

For Cub Scouts: Canoeing, kayaking, rowing, and rafting for Cub Scouts (including Webelos Scouts) are to be limited to council/district events on flat water ponds or controlled lake areas free of powerboats

and sailboats. Prior to recreational canoeing and kayaking, Cub Scouts are to be instructed in basic handling skills and safety practices.

## 7. Planning

- *Float Plan* Obtain current maps and information about the waterway to be traveled. Know exactly where the unit will "put in" and "pull out" and what course will be followed. Travel time should be estimated generously. Review the plan with others who have traveled the course recently.
- *Local Rules* Determine which state and local regulations are applicable, and follow them. Get written permission to use or cross private property.
- *Notification* File the float plan with parents or participants and a member of the unit committee. File the float plan with the local council office when traveling on running water. Check in with all those who should be notified when returning.
- *Weather* Check the weather forecast just before setting out, and keep an alert weather eye. Bring all craft ashore when rough weather threatens.
- *Contingencies* Planning must identify possible emergencies and other circumstances that could force a change of plans. Appropriate alternative plans must be developed for each.

For Cub Scouts: Cub Scout canoeing, kayaking, rowing, and rafting do not include "trips" or "expeditions" and are not to be conducted on running water (i.e., rivers or streams); therefore, some procedures are inapplicable. Suitable weather requires clear skies, no appreciable wind, and warm air and water.

## 8. Equipment

All equipment must be suited to the craft, to water conditions, and to the individual; must be in good repair; and must satisfy all state and federal requirements. Spare equipment or repair materials must be carried. Appropriate rescue equipment must be available for immediate use.

## 9. Discipline

All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for safe unit activity afloat. The applicable rules should be presented and learned prior to the outing, and should be reviewed for all participants at the water's edge just before the activity begins. When Scouts know and understand the reasons for the rules, they will observe them. When fairly and impartially applied, rules do not interfere with the fun. Rules for safety, plus common sense and good judgment, keep the fun from being interrupted by tragedy.

Note: For cruising vessels (excluding rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and rafts, but including sailboats and powerboats greater than 20 feet long) used in adult-supervised unit activities by a chartered Venturing crew/ship specializing in watercraft operations, or used in adult-supervised program activity in connection with any high-adventure program or other activity under the direct sponsorship and control of the National Council, the standards and procedures in the Sea Scout Manual may be substituted for the Safety Afloat standards.

Reference: Safety Afloat, No. 34368 and in the Online Learning Center

## Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be worn by all persons engaged in activity on the open water (rowing, canoeing, sailing, boardsailing, motor boating, waterskiing, rafting, tubing, and kayaking).

Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved equipment (types I, II, or III) is acceptable for use in Scouting aquatics. Ski belts are not acceptable. Scouts and unit leaders should learn which type is appropriate for each specific circumstance and how to wear and check for proper fit.

Reference: Safety Afloat, No. 34368 and in the Online Learning Center

## Kayaking

Kayaking activities are limited to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers. Additional kayaking information may be found in the *Kayaking BSA* pamphlet, No. 19-510, the *Fieldbook*, No. 33104; the *Whitewater* merit badge pamphlet, 33405; and *Varsity Team Program Features, Volume III*, No. 34839.

## **Kayaking BSA**

Kayaking BSA provides an introduction to kayaking skills and safety procedures and serves as a program opportunity for Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venturing units in camp or out. Mastery of Kayaking BSA skills is a first critical step towards satisfying Safety Afloat guidelines for safe kayak excursions.

## **Kayaking Safety**

### **1. Qualified supervision.**

All kayaking activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the youth and who is experienced with the type of kayaks and activity under consideration. One adult supervisor is required for every 10 participants, with a minimum of two for any one group. All supervisors must complete Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training, and at least one must be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

### **2. Physical fitness.**

Evidence of fitness for swimming activity is required in the form of a complete health history from a physician, parent, or guardian. The supervisor must know the physical condition of all participants and must adjust activities to avoid any potential risks associated with individual health concerns.

### **3. Swimming ability.**

Every participant must be classified as a "swimmer" to participate in training for Kayaking BSA or to paddle a solo kayak at a Scouting function.

### **4. Personal flotation equipment.**

Properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be worn by all persons engaged in kayaking.

### **5. Buddy system.**

Scouts never go on the water alone. Every person must have a buddy, and every craft on the water must have a "buddy boat."

### **6. Skill proficiency.**

All persons participating in activity afloat must be trained and practiced in craft-handling skills, safety, and emergency procedures. Kayaking BSA prepares Scouts and unit leaders for kayaking on flat water of a limited extent, such as that at a camp waterfront. Kayak trips require additional training in emergency equipment and communication. Ocean and river trips require additional kayaking skills for dealing with waves and moving water and the ability to "read" the environment. Units should not undertake excursions on class II whitewater before mastering the necessary skills on class I rivers.

### **7. Planning.**

Before Scouts go afloat, they develop a float plan detailing their route, time schedule, and contingency plans. The float plan considers all possible water and weather conditions and all applicable rules or regulations, and is shared with all who have an interest.

### **8. Equipment.**

All equipment must be suited to the craft, to the water conditions, and to the individual. Equipment must be in good repair and meet all applicable standards. Appropriate rescue equipment must be available. Whitewater kayaking requires the use of safety helmets. During treks, safety gear such as navigation aids, weather radios, individual signal devices, throw bags, first aid kits, spare paddles, and spare clothing should be carried in the kayaks or in support craft.

**9. Discipline.**

Scouts must know and respect the rules, and always follow directions from the adults supervising the activity afloat. Rules and safety procedures should be reviewed before each group launch.

Reference: Kayaking BSA, No. 19-510

Foregoing excerpts taken from <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss02.aspx>