TRIP PLANNING, SUPERVISION, AND EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- People of all ages, levels of experience, and ability enjoy the satisfaction and exhilaration of boating.
- With good planning and supervision, boating can be safe and fun.

SMALL CRAFT TRIP PLANNING

- Planning a safe and enjoyable trip includes—
  - Selecting a leader.
  - Knowing the responsibilities and legal considerations.
  - Selecting the locale and route.
  - Checking the weather conditions.
  - Checking the water conditions.
  - Choosing the appropriate clothing.
  - Selecting and checking the appropriate equipment.
  - Preparing for possible emergencies.
- A group leader should—
  - Be a responsible person with leadership experience, safety training, and good judgment.
  - Have experience in an environment similar to the group's destination.
  - Be able to guide the group through all phases of the trip, and take charge if a crisis arises.

Responsibilities and Legal Considerations

- As a group leader, you are responsible for the safety of trip participants. To help provide for the safety of the participants, consider their limits, skill levels, and experience.
- Be aware of and responsive to medical conditions or restrictions that participants may have.
- Being a group leader involves some legal responsibility, or liability. Group leaders should have a thorough understanding of the responsibilities and legal implications of supervising a group.
  This information can help prevent accidents and negligence which may result in a lawsuit.
- Group leaders may be required to have certain training and certifications.
- While individual organizations establish specific responsibilities for group leaders, in general they are expected to provide a standard of care that includes accepting responsibility for—
  - Minimizing risks.
  - Responding quickly and appropriately in emergency situations.

Selecting the Locale and Route

- The location, duration, and difficulty of the trip should depend on the capabilities of the group, type of craft, and weather conditions. If the trip is beyond your abilities or the abilities of your group, change the trip plan.
- Detailed planning makes trips safer. Use guidebooks to identify campsite locations, known hazards, river classifications, and portage trails.
- The float plan should include the following information:
  - Names of group members
  - Starting point
  - Route and checkpoints

  - Destination
  - Planned return time
  - Whom to contact if you do not return as scheduled

- A float plan is particularly important if you are traveling in a wilderness area, or if you plan to be gone for an extended period of time.
- Give the float plan to a responsible person, and ask him or her to contact the local Coast Guard or law enforcement agency if you do not return as scheduled.

Checking the Weather Conditions

- Check the local weather forecast before leaving.

- Signs of bad weather which would cause them to consider delaying or postponing the trip include the following:
  - Growing cloud cover and darkening skies
  - Sudden changes in wind velocity or direction, or gusty winds
  - Lightning
  - Thunder
  - Increasing waves
  - Sudden temperature changes

- If a storm approaches while you are on the water—
  - Return to shore at the first sound of thunder or flash of lightning, regardless of how far away it seems.
  - Seek shelter in an enclosed area.
  - Stay away from open areas, trees, and tall or metal objects.
  - If you are caught in a boat during a storm and unable to return to shore, stay as low as possible in the craft.

Checking the Water Conditions

- Good weather does not automatically mean that water conditions are good.
- Water conditions can change quickly as a result of dams, tides, currents, snow melt, or recent rains.
- Proper planning includes finding out about these conditions and potential hazards ahead of time.

Choosing Appropriate Equipment

- Some of the factors to consider when choosing equipment include the following:
  - Duration of the trip
  - Type of water
  - Weather conditions
  - Remoteness of the location
  - Potential portages
- Take equipment that is in good shape, and practice using the equipment before the trip.

List items the group may need. The list may include the following:

  - Matches in a waterproof container
  - Flashlight with extra bulbs and batteries
  - Tent or other shelter
  - Food and cooking gear
  - Water purification tablets or filter

- Maps, charts, and compass
- Portable radio for weather reports
- Boat repair kit
- Tools, such as pliers and screwdrivers
- Duct tape

List items that each participant should bring as his or her own personal gear. The list may include the following:

- Toiletry kit
- Head and eye gear, such as a hat, helmet, and sunglasses
- Extra clothes in waterproof bags
- Rain gear
- Dry suit or wet suit
- Ground cloth
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Waterproof packs
- Footwear
- Drinking water
- Toilet paper
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

Safety Equipment

- Have safety equipment on board. The exact equipment required depends on the following:
  - Federal, regional, and state laws
  - Type of small craft
  - Location and duration of the trip

- List basic safety equipment that may be needed. The list should include the following:
  - A U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person
  - A Type IV (throwable) PFD
  - A throw bag
  - Extra line/rope
  - Extra paddles/oars
  - Bailers and sponges
  - First aid kit in a waterproof container
  - Blankets
  - Means of communication, such as a cellular phone or two-way radio
  - A sound device, such as an air horn or whistle
  - A visual distress signal, such as a flare, strobe light, signal mirror, chemical light stick, or colored dye marker.

Checking the Craft and Equipment

- Before starting your trip, check your boat and equipment to make sure they are in good working order by—
  - Testing new and unfamiliar equipment.
  - Making certain that the craft is in good repair.
  - Making sure that paddles or oars are strong and properly sized.
  - Installing safety lines that you can hold onto in case your craft capsizes.
  - Making sure all lines and equipment are properly secured.
  - Making sure your craft is not overloaded.
  - Making sure you have appropriate repair materials and equipment.

Choosing the Appropriate Clothing

- Choose clothing that preserves body heat even when wet.
- Consider a layer of insulating clothing under a jacket and pants of a light, waterproof fabric like a paddle suit. This provides insulation for warmth, helps shed water, and reduces heat loss from wind and evaporation. Another option is a wet suit or dry suit.
- Wear shoes to keep you from slipping, and to protect your feet from cuts and other injuries.
- Wear a hat to protect your face from the sun and keep your head warm.

SMALL CRAFT SUPERVISION

Communication

- Good communication is necessary for boating safety.

- List what information should be communicated before starting a small craft outing. The list should include—
  - The responsibilities of each participant.
  - Safety rules for participants.
  - Where and how far craft may travel.
  - Emergency signals to be used, such as whistle blows or hand signals.
  - Distance between craft.
- Effective communication is essential for everyone’s safety on the water. Communicate the following information to your passengers and to other craft:
  - Announce any sudden changes in direction.
  - Warn fellow boaters of objects or other craft that need to be avoided.
  - Warn passengers of any wake, waves, or rapids that are coming up.
  - Advise others on board if you need to move or change positions.
  - Advise other craft in your group if they are too far away, too far ahead, or falling behind.

Leader-to-Participant Ratios

- Many camps, agencies, and outfitters establish leader-to-participant ratios for small craft activities. These ratios are set to provide adequate supervision and participant safety.
- If no ratios are established, consider the following factors in determining appropriate leader-to- participant ratios for small craft activities:
  - Number of craft being supervised
  - Number of participants being supervised
  - Age and ability of participants
  - Type of craft being supervised
  - Type of water and weather conditions
  - Type, length, and location of the activity

Leader Location

- Proper location of small craft leaders will help provide effective supervision. The same factors that determine adequate leader-to-participant ratios need to be considered when determining leader location.
- There are several options for the location of a leader:
  - **Lead craft—**The leader may be in the front or first craft. The lead craft should have someone in it who has previously navigated the waters and is familiar with the area.
  - **Sweep craft**—The leader may be in the craft that brings up the rear to ensure that no one is left behind.
  - **Safety boat**—The leader may be in a safety boat, where a number of craft can be observed, and any craft that stray too far can be retrieved.
  - The leader may elect to move among the various craft to ensure that all is well and to offer any instructions or answer questions.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- Being prepared for an emergency means being ready *before* it happens. This can help lower the risk of serious injury or death.
- To be prepared for an emergency—
  - Be aware of the conditions and potential hazards of the water environment. Know its unique conditions, as well as hazards common in your geographical area, such as storms.
  - Understand the various recreational activities that are common in the water environment. Consider the age and ability of participants in those activities.
  - Learn what kind of accidents and injuries have occurred in the past in the water environment.
  - Have the appropriate safety equipment and first aid supplies for the water environment.

CANOEING SAFETY

- To understand canoeing safety and prevent canoeing accidents, injuries, and fatalities, you must understand the causes.
- According to the American Canoe Association, most accidents occur on calm rivers and lakes—not on white water.
- Approximately half of the canoeing fatalities would not have occurred if the victim had been wearing a life jacket.
- The effects of alcohol and cold water are also major factors in canoeing accidents and fatalities.

Preventing Canoe Capsizes, Falls Overboard, and Collisions

- Capsizing, falls overboard, and collisions are the most common types of canoeing accidents.
- Most accidents can be prevented by following a few safety guidelines:
  - Keep your weight low by paddling in the kneeling position. Passengers should sit on the bottom of the canoe.
  - When entering, exiting, or moving around in a canoe, have two hands and one foot or one hand and two feet (three points of contact) in contact with the canoe.
  - Do not sit on the gunwale.
  - Watch out for submerged objects, potential hazards, and other boats.

Guidelines for Safe Canoeing

- Understanding the primary causes of canoeing accidents, injuries, and fatalities is the first step to preventing them. Follow these guidelines:
  - Canoe in groups. The American Canoe Association recommends there be a minimum of three craft when paddling.
  - Have the proper training and experience before supervising others canoeing. This may include training in first aid, CPR, and water safety as well as training in canoeing.
  - Make sure everyone on board is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
  - Have and use appropriate clothing, equipment, and gear.
  - Check the weather and water conditions before and while canoeing.
  - Communicate your expectations, rules, and safety procedures to everyone in the group.
  - Be prepared for emergencies, and practice emergency procedures regularly.
  - Properly outfit the canoe.
  - Securely fasten all gear, equipment, and lines to prevent entanglement if the canoe capsizes.
  - Do not compromise your safety or the safety of others on the water. Canoe only on waters that are within your ability and within the abilities of others in your group.

Supervision and Communication

- Paddlers in the same or different canoes must be able to communicate. In addition to whistle and hand signals set up in advance, the American Whitewater Affiliation has a standardized set of signals to—
  - Indicate an emergency.
  - Get another paddler's attention.
  - Indicate direction of travel.
- A canoe trip leader or assistant should make sure that the canoes stay a safe distance apart.
  - Each canoe should be within shouting distance of at least one other craft.
  - Each canoe should not lose sight of the canoe in front or behind it.
  - No canoe should pass the lead canoe or fall behind the sweep canoe.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Federal and state laws regulate water craft operation. Know the laws that apply to you and your craft.
  - **Registration**—Some states require all water craft to be registered with the state. Other states require motorboats, sailboats, or water craft over a certain length to be registered.
  - **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**—Federal law mandates that boats less than 16 feet must carry a wearable PFD for each person on board. Boats 16 feet and over must also have at least one throwable (Type IV) PFD aboard.
  - **Sound devices**—Due to the dangers of fog, mist, and rain, all craft are required by federal law to have a sound device on board. Craft shorter than 39.4 feet can use a whistle, horn, or bell as a sound signal.
  - **Craft capacity**—Most craft have a capacity plate that indicates the maximum weight or number of people allowed on board. If your craft does not have a capacity plate, you can calculate its maximum capacity. Multiply the length of the craft, in feet, by the beam (width at the widest part), in feet, and divide by 15 (fractions should be rounded down).

    Maximum # of people = (Length x Beam) / 15

  - **Navigation lights**—Federal law requires that all craft on the water between sundown and sunup, and during other periods of reduced visibility, have navigation lights on board and in use. Electric torches, flashlights, or lighted lanterns with white lights are acceptable navigational lights for small craft in most states.
  - **Visual distress signals**—Federal law mandates that craft operating at night carry nighttime visual distress signals, such as hand-held flares, aerial flares, or distress lights when operating on coastal waters.
  - **Accident Reporting**—The U.S. Coast Guard requires that the following boating accidents be reported:
    - An accident resulting in death
    - An accident that results in injury and requires medical attention beyond first aid
    - An accident that results in property damage of $500 or more, or the complete loss of a craft

CANOEING EMERGENCIES

Rescue Priorities

- If a canoeing emergency occurs, follow these rescue priorities:
  1. Rescue people first.
  2. After everyone involved has been brought to safety, consider retrieving the craft and gear only if it will not put you or others in danger.

Self-Rescue in Flat Water

- If you fall overboard in flat water, stay with your canoe.
- Climbing inside or on top of the canoe will keep you warmer and make you more visible to rescuers.

Assisting Others in Flat Water

- It may be necessary for you to provide assistance to another paddler who is having difficulty in the water.
- If a canoer has capsized and is close to shore, you can tow the person and his or her swamped craft to shore.
- Another means of assisting paddlers who have either capsized or swamped their canoe is the canoe-over-canoe rescue.
- The canoe-over-canoe rescue is used to empty water from a swamped canoe some distance from the shore.

Self-Rescue in Flat Water

Reentering Your Canoe from a Fall Overboard in Flat Water

- If you fall overboard, stay with your canoe.
- Explain and demonstrate reentry into a canoe from a position in the water. Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps:
  1. From the side of the canoe, hold onto the gunwale with one hand and a thwart with the other hand.
  2. Keeping your weight on the gunwale and thwart, kick vigorously to raise your hips to the gunwale.
  3. Rotate your hips to sit inside the canoe, then bring your legs into the craft.
  4. If you have a partner, carefully maintain your balance and steady the craft while he or she enters the canoe using the same steps.

Reen**tering Your Swamped Canoe**

- Explain and demonstrate reentry into a swamped, upright canoe from a position in the water. Guide participants through the following steps:
  1. Turn your canoe toward shore.
  2. Lie across the middle of the canoe to keep it from rolling over sideways.
  3. When the canoe is stable, rotate your body into the canoe.
  4. Move into a sitting position on the bottom of the craft and hand paddle to safety.

5. If you have a partner, carefully steady the craft while he or she enters the canoe using the same steps listed above, then hand paddle to safety.
6. After reaching shallow water, empty the water from your canoe.
    1. One paddler stands at the bow, the other paddler stands at the stern.
    2. Both paddlers turn the swamped canoe sideways in the water.
    3. Lift the canoe sideways out of the water, and empty the canoe.
    4. Turn the canoe right-side up, and set it down on the water or carry it ashore.

Assisting Others in Flat Water

Towing Assist

- If a canoer has capsized and is close to shore, you can tow the person and their swamped craft back to shore.
- Explain and demonstrate the towing assist from a position in the water. Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps:
    1. Present the stern of your canoe to the person.
    2. Tell the canoer to hold the painter or the back of your craft.
    3. Slowly paddle to safety.
- .

Canoe-Over-Canoe Rescue

- The canoe-over-canoe rescue is used to empty water from a swamped canoe some distance from the shore.
- During the assist, the capsized paddlers can hold on to each end of your canoe to stabilize it, or one of the capsized paddlers can aid in the assist.
- Explain and demonstrate the canoe-over-canoe rescue from a position in the water. Assign groups or ask participants to form groups with two canoes. Guide participants through the following steps:
    1. The person at the bow of the rescue canoe turns to face the stern.
    2. Roll the swamped canoe over so the bottom is up, and position it perpendicular to your craft.
    3. Lift one end of the upside-down canoe onto the gunwale, near the middle of your canoe. At the same time, one of the paddlers in the water pushes down on the end of the canoe that is in the water.
    4. Carefully slide the upside-down canoe across the gunwales of your craft.
    5. Roll the canoe upright while still across the gunwales.
    6. Slide the canoe back into the water. The paddlers can then reenter their canoe while you hold the two canoes side by side for stability.

Safety TIPS: To prevent injuries to fingers, tell participants to keep their hands inside their canoe as the canoe is slid across the gunwales.

Roll the keel toward the wind to prevent the canoe from blowing into a downwind rescuer.

Rescue Guidelines

- Knowing how to help others in the water is important. Always act safely to reduce the risk of becoming a victim yourself.
- To stay safe when helping someone in trouble, do not enter the water.
- If you must assist someone who is having trouble in the water, you must have appropriate equipment for your own safety, and the victim's. For example, wear a life jacket when helping someone in open water.
- *Swimming into deep water to bring a victim to shore requires special training and equipment. Do not swim out to a victim without the proper training and equipment. You can put yourself in danger and risk two lives rather than saving one.*

Self-Rescue when Wearing a Life Jacket

- If you fall into deep water wearing a life jacket, keep your face and head above the surface.
- If you are near a capsized boat or large debris, climb as far out of the water as you can onto the boat or debris.
- Keep all your clothes on, especially your hat. Even wet clothes help maintain your body heat**.**

HELP Position

- HELP stands for **H**eat **E**scape **L**essening **P**osture.
- This position is used by one person wearing a life jacket to conserve body heat in **cold water** while awaiting rescue.
- **Do not use the HELP Position in moving water.**

SKILL: Huddle

Equipment needed: Life Jackets for each student

The HELP Position

- Standing in shallow water, while wearing a life jacket, explain and demonstrate the HELP Position. Guide participants through the following steps:
  1. Draw your knees up to your chest.
  2. Keep your face forward and out of the water.
  3. Hold your upper arms at your sides, and hold your lower arms against or across your chest.

The Huddle Position

- The huddle position is for two or more people wearing life jackets to conserve body heat in **cold water** while awaiting rescue.
- With two people, put your arms around each other so that your chests are together.
- With three or more people, put your arms over each other's shoulders so that your chests are together. Place children or elderly persons in the middle of the huddle.
- Do not use the huddle position in fast moving water.

SKILL: Huddle Position

Equipment needed: Life Jackets for each student

- Standing in shallow water, while wearing a life jacket, explain and demonstrate the huddle position. Assign groups or ask participants to create groups of three or four. Guide participants through the following steps:
  1. With two people, put your arms around each other so that your chests are together.
  2. With three or more people, put your arms over each other's shoulders so that the sides of your chests are together. Place children or elderly persons in the middle of the huddle.

Recognizing Aquatic Emergencies

- You need to know how to rescue others from the water in addition to yourself. This starts with recognizing when an emergency is happening.
- Emergencies can occur regardless of how experienced the boater is or how good of a swimmer the person is.
- Recognizing that a person is having trouble in the water may help save his or her life.

Rescue Guidelines

- Knowing how to help others in the water is important. Always act safely to reduce the risk of becoming a victim yourself.
- To stay safe when helping someone in trouble, do not enter the water.
- If you must assist someone who is having trouble in the water, you must have appropriate equipment for your own safety, and the victim's. For example, wear a life jacket when helping someone in open water.
- *Swimming into deep water to bring a victim to shore requires special training and equipment. Do not swim out to a victim without the proper training and equipment. You can put yourself in danger and risk two lives rather than saving one.*

Reaching Assist with Equipment

- If a victim is close enough, without going into the water yourself, use a reaching assist to help him or her out of the water.
- Use any object to extend your reach.

Skill: Reaching assists with Equipment:

Equipment Needed : Objects for reaching, such as life jackets, reaching poles, branches, oars or paddles, towels.

•Explain and demonstrate a reaching assist with equipment (kick boards, paddles, sticks, towels, poles, etc.) Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps:

1. Brace yourself in the craft, on the pier surface, or shoreline.
2. Extend the object to the victim.
3. When the victim grasps the object, slowly and carefully pull him or her to safety. Keep your body low, and lean back to avoid being pulled into the water.

- After participants have practiced the skill to the point at which they feel comfortable in their ability to perform it, have them change places. Repeat the practice. Check off participants' skills as you watch them practice.

Reaching Assist without Equipment

- If there is no equipment available to perform a reaching assist, you can extend your arm and grasp the victim.
- If you are already in the water, you can hold onto a ladder, pier, piling, or another secure object, and extend your free hand or one of your legs to the victim.

SKILL: Reaching Assists without Equipment

1. Explain and demonstrate a reaching assist without equipment (legs or arms) from the shore or pier and a reaching assist without equipment from a position in the water. Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps: Wear your life jacket if possible.
   1. Brace yourself in the craft, on the pier surface, or shoreline.
   2. Reach with your arm and grasp the victim.
   3. Pull the victim to safety.

2. Have the participants perform an extension assist without equipment from a position in the water. Guide participants through the following steps: Wear your life jacket if possible.
   1. Hold onto a ladder, pier, piling, or another secure object with one hand.
   2. Extend your free hand or one of your legs to the victim. Do not let go of the secure object or swim out into the water.
   3. Pull the victim to safety.

- After participants have practiced the skills to the point at which they feel comfortable in their ability to perform it, have them change places. Repeat the practice. Check off participants' skills as you watch them practice.

Throwing Assist

- Use a throwing assist to rescue someone from a shoreline or pier who is beyond your reach. Throw the victim a buoyant object tied to a line. He or she can grasp the object and be pulled to safety. Items such as a ring buoy, throw bag, heaving line, home made throwing devices or any floating objects.
- Throwing equipment should be carried on small craft and be kept at waterfront areas

Skill: Throwing Assists

Equipment: Throwing equipment, such as heaving lines, ring buoys, throw bags, homemade throwing devices, or any floating objects

- Use a throwing assist to rescue someone beyond your reach. from a shoreline or pier or possibly a boat.. Throw the victim a buoyant object tied to a line. He or she can grasp the object and be pulled to safety.

- Explain and demonstrate a throwing assist using two different pieces of equipment (Throw lines, heaving jugs, rescue tubes, ring buoys, monkey's fists, etc). Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps with two of the pieces of equipment:

1. Get into a stride position: the leg opposite your throwing arm is forward. This helps keep your balance when you throw the object.
2. Step on the end of the line with your forward foot.
3. Shout to get the victim's attention. Make eye contact and say that you are going to throw the object now. Tell the victim to grab it.
4. Bend your knees and throw the object to the victim. Try to throw the object upwind and/or up current, just over the victim's head, so the line drops within reach.
5. When the victim has grasped the object or the line, slowly pull him or her to safety. Lean away from the water as you pull.
6. If the object does not reach the victim, quickly pull the line back in and throw it again. If using a throw bag, partially fill the bag with some water and throw it again.
7. After participants have practiced the skill to the point at which they feel comfortable in their ability to perform it, have them change places. Repeat the practice. Check off participants' skills as you watch them practice.
8. Respond to any questions participants may have.

Wading Assists with Equipment

- If the throwing assist does not work, and the water is shallow and safe enough for wading, try a wading assist with equipment.
- If a current or soft bottom makes wading dangerous, do not go in the water.
- If the water is safe and shallow enough (not over your chest), you can wade in to reach to the victim.
- If possible, wear a life jacket.
- .Take something to reach to the victim.

- Keep the object between you and the victim to help prevent him or her from clutching at you in panic

If the water is safe and shallow enough (not over your chest), you can wade in to reach the victim. Wear a Lifejacket if possible.

SKILL: Wading Assists with Equipment

Equipment: Life jackets and reaching objects such as a(n) rescue tube, ring buoy, buoyant cushion, life jacket, tree branch, pole, air mattress, plastic cooler, picnic jug, or paddle

Explain and demonstrate the wading assist with equipment from a position in shallow water. Assign partners or ask participants to find a partner. Guide participants through the following steps:

1. Take a floating object to extend to the victim.
2. Wade into the water and extend the object to the victim.
3. When the victim grasps the object, tell him or her to hold onto the object tightly for support, and pull him or her to safety.
4. Keep the object between you and the victim to help prevent him or her from clutching at you in panic.

Safe Swim Defense Safety Afloat Review

1. The first and last point of both Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense are the same.

   A Yes, Qualified Supervision is first, Discipline is last.
   B Yes, Discipline is last and Qualified Supervision is first.
   C Yes, However different information is presented for each defense.
   D All of the above are correct statements.

2. Part of the required qualifications for "Supervisior" for Safe Swim Defense include:

   A Is a mature conscientious adult 18 years of age or older….
   B Has completed BSA Lifeguard Training or holds an equivalent recognized certification.
   C Has completed BSA Safe Swim Defense
   D All of the above

3. Your Troop is planning your first aquatic activity of the year. Who should take the BSA "Swimmer" test?

   A Only the new Scouts that have not completed the Swimming Merit Badge.
   B Only the adults and youth that will be part of the Qualified Supervision for the activity.
   C Everyone; Scouts, Scouters and guests, who plan to participate.
   D Those Scouts that are not sure of their swimming skills and want to take the test.

4. You are planning a Troop Swim during your week at your favorite Summer Camp. The "swimming hole" is a natural spring with a high bluff on one side. The water is clear and cold. Your Troop has used this area "every summer" for the last 5 years.

   A This location may not meet the requirements for a "Safe Area".
   B You do not need to check the swim area since you have used it before.
   C Diving will be permitted from the bluff but only from 12 feet or more above the water.
   D It will be OK to jump feet first from the bluff at any height since the water is over 20 feet deep.

5. You are on an approved canoe trip on a flat-water river. Your Troop has reached the planned evening campsite. Your Scouts want to swim in a calm area of the river near the campsite.

   A This activity can not permitted.
   B The activity may be permitted if all participants wear PFD's and all other conditions are met.
   C The activity will be permitted but only if additional trained lifeguards are available.
   D The activity will be permitted but only for Scouts who have completed Lifesaving Merit Badge.

6. You check the planned swimming area and find that all requirements of "Safe Area" are met. You determine, however, that you can not see your Troops twelve inch diameter, white "flying disk" when it is in about three foot deep water.

   A The swimming activity cannot be permitted in this area.
   B The activity must be restricted to surface swimming only.
   C Swimming will be unrestricted but diving will not be permitted.
   D Swimming and diving are permitted.

7. BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat Training:

   A May only be taught by a person authorized by the local BSA Council.
   B Must be taught to all Scouts and Scouters participating in aquatic activities.
   C Must never be taught to Scouts under 18. This is an adult class only
   D May be taught by anyone with aquatic knowledge and skills

8. Personal flotation devices, PFD's ….

   A Must be worn by all persons engaged in open water activities
   B Must be properly fitted and U.S. Coast Guard-approved for the intended use.
   C Must be rated for the size and weight of the wearer.
   D All of the above are correct statements.

9. Canadian rules for PFD use by U.S. citizens in Canada…

   A All PFD's approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for the intended use are acceptable.
   B PFD's must be Red, Yellow or Orange in color.
   C The Canadian Government seldom imposes the $200.00 fine for PFD violations.
   D None of the above are true.

10. All Scouts and Scouters planning to participate in an activity afloat must:

   A Have completed American Red Cross Fundamentals of Canoeing or Kayaking.
   B Have passed an approved "basic handling test".
   C Have completed a minimum of three hours of instruction in the type of craft to be used.
   D Either B or C meet the minimum "Skills Proficiency" requirement for Safety Afloat

11. Part of the required qualifications for "Qualified Supervision" for Safe Swim Defense include:

   A Must have current CPR training from a recognized training agency.
   B Must be a currently certified BSA Lifeguard or hold an equivalent certification.
   C Must be over 18 and committed to compliance with the 8 points of BSA Safe Swim Defense.
   D Must have completed "Safe Swim Defense"

12. Part of the required qualifications for "Qualified Supervision" for Safety Afloat include:

   A At least one must have current CPR training from a recognized training agency.
   B At least one must be over 21 and all must have completed BSA Safe Swim Defense.
   C All must be over 18 and have completed BSA Safety Afloat training.
   D All of the above are true statements.

13. Safety Afloat qualifications for "Supervisor" also require that the adult:

   A Has completed American Red Cross FOC instructor training.
   B Has completed American Red Cross Advanced First Aid training.
   C Has completed rescue training for the watercraft to be used in the activity.
   D Must be at the "expert skill level" in handling the craft used in the activity.

14. Swim skills checks that were done in the Summer Camp Swimming Pool are acceptable evidence of swimming ability for afloat activities.

   A Yes, If Scouts have demonstrated skills proficiency in the Pool, they will be OK in a lake or river.
   B No, Many Scouts and adults are OK in a pool but have difficulty in "dark" water.
   C Yes, Even if they have a problem with dark water, they will be wearing a PFD and will be safe.
   D Yes, You must never "retest" the Scouts swimming skills.

15. You are planning a flat-water canoe trip. You are required to file a float plan with:

   A All parents of youth participants in the activity and one member of the Troop Committee.
   B The Council "Camping Services" department and your Charted Organization Representative.
   C Your District Health and Safety and your Council Canoe Committee Chairmen.
   D All of the above are required for flat-water activities.

16. Your PLC wants to invite your "bridging" WEBELOS to a unit swim and canoe outing. Your WEBELOS guests…

A Are not permitted to participate in any Troop aquatic activity.
B May swim provided the supervision ratio is adjusted to 1:5 for the cubs.
C May canoe if they meet the minimum swimming requirements.
D May participate in the swimming activity but unit canoe activities are not permitted for Cubs.

17. Most aquatic accidents…

A Involve failure to follow one or more points of BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.
B Could be prevented by following BSA Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat procedures.
C Result from conditions over which the supervisor has or could have control.
D All of the above are correct answers.

18. In addition to Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat, other guidelines that will apply to every unit afloat aquatic activity include:

A Guide to Safe Scouting, Youth Protection Training, and The "Sweet 16" of BSA Safety.
B Climb On Safely, The Outdoor Code and Liquid Fuels Safety
C American Canoe Club "Guide to Paddling Skills Perfection"
D All of the above will apply to every unit aquatic activity.

19. What is the minimum number of qualified Scouts and Scouters needed to conduct a unit swim for 25 participants?

A Three, (1) Supervisor, (1) Lifeguard and (1) Lookout
B Four, (1) Supervisor, (2) Lifeguards and (1) Lookout
C Two, (1) Supervisor and (1) Lifeguard
D Four, (1) Supervisor/Lookout (3) Lifeguards

20. What is the minimum number of qualified Scouts and Scouters needed to conduct a patrol swim for 8 participants?

A Three, (1) Supervisor, (1) Lifeguard and (1) Lookout
B One, (1) Supervisor
C Two, (1) Supervisor/Lookout and (1) Lifeguard
D Four, (1) Supervisor/Lookout (3) Lifeguards

21. All equipment used in a Troop afloat activity, weather owned by the unit or rented for the outing, must…

A Be suited to the type of activity planned and the anticipated water and weather conditions.
B Be in good repair and comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws.
C Have appropriate rescue equipment in working order and readily accessible
D All of the above are correct answers.

22. Your unit has just returned from a canoe outing. You are on schedule and everyone had a great time. What should you do "first" now that the activity is over?

A Plan a steak dinner for your Junior Leaders and your ASM staff.
B Try to return all of the lost and found items.
C Explain to Billy that he cannot take the snake home with him.
D Close your float plan with the parents and your Troop Committee contact.

23. Why is it very important to get written permission to cross private property in Texas

A Texas landowners sometimes shoot trespassers.
B Except in an emergency, it is against the law to trespass in Texas.
C Many Texas landowners will permit access to their property if ask in advance.
D All of the above are correct, especially A and C.

24. What are the elements covered in Safety Afloat “Planning”?

A Throw, Row and then Go.
B Airway, Breathing, and Circulation
C Float Plan, Local Rules, Notification, Weather, Contingencies
D Road Conditions, Weather, Water Level, Equipment, and Food

25. You are on a three-day wilderness paddle. It is a beautiful, clear day. You notice that the weather is beginning to change and, even though the sky is presently clear, you definitely hear thunder…

A Continue your trip. The storm is obviously a long way a way and may not be a factor for a while.
B Wait until the thunderclaps are about 15 seconds apart then get off the water.
C Plan immediately to stop and locate suitable shelter. Remain off the water for at least 20 minutes.
D Continue your trip. Watch the weather and get off the water when you actually see the lightning.

26. You are planning a flat-water canoe activity. Members of your venture patrol have completed approved kayak training. The want to bring kayaks on the outing….

A This is not permitted. You can not mix canoes and kayaks.
B Sure, but they must stay together and they may not be a “buddy boat” for a canoe.
C Sure, but they can only be a “buddy boat” for a solo canoe.
D Sure, provided they have been trained in rescue procedures for both canoes and kayaks.

27. Tenderfoot Scout Tommy just cannot pass the swim test. He wants to go on the planned flat-water canoe outing…

A Sorry, Tommy cannot come along until he passes the “swimmer” test.
B Sure, no problem. Put Tommy in a Type III PFD and let him paddle.
C Tommy can ride in a canoe with an adult that has current BSA or equivalent Lifeguard training.
D Tommy can ride as the “third man” with Scouts that have completed Lifesaving Merit Badge

28. You are planning an aquatic activity at local lake just a few miles from your regular meeting location. You will be swimming and canoeing. Your Troop owns a rack of canoes that you plan to use. One of your members also plans to bring a sailboat. He, as well as many of your Scouts, are trained to sail…

A No way! Sailing and canoeing are not permitted on the same water.
B Sure. Make sure that you keep the sailing activity well away from the canoe and swimming area.
C Sure. You must close the waterfront to all other activities while the sailboat is “under sail”.
D Sure. Canoes, Swimmers and even kayakers can safely share the same area with a sailboat.

29. Same activity as above… “A Local Tour Permit” is….

A Required for this activity since you have aquatic activities planned.
B Is not required since this activity is held less that 25 miles form your meeting place.
C Is not required since you are not renting canoes from the Council.
D Is required only if your Unit Commissioner requests it.

30. Same activity as above… You have one qualified “supervisor”, four BSA trained “Lifeguards” and one adult that is qualified to be a “Lookout” but not a lifeguard. How many members can swim at on time?

A 50 or more.
B No more than 20.
C No more than 35 would be permitted.
D 40 swimmers can be properly supervised