



Safe Swim Defense



In order for a scouting unit to engage in a swimming activity, BSA requires supervision by adults trained in “Safe Swim Defense.” Watercraft activities (canoeing, rafting, rowing, etc.) require supervision by adults trained in both Safe Swim Defense and “Safety Afloat.”

BSA offers Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat as online training. At the end of each of these two courses you will be able to print your own completion certificate. If you take one or both of these classes, please use a computer that can print (and obviously, that has an internet connection).

Each of these two classes takes about 20 minutes on a broadband connection. To take the online courses:

- Read the rest of this page first, then click the link at the bottom of this page. It will take you to <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/aquatics/index2.html>.
- Maximize the window and select the desired course. It's a good idea to start with Safe Swim Defense. The Safety Afloat course is modeled largely on Safe Swim Defense, and Safe Swim Defense is required for watercraft activities anyhow.
- Pay attention to the material as you advance through the pages; there are a couple of one-page mini-quizzes plus a 20+ question test at the end of each course.
- If your internet connection has a timeout feature, don't go more than 10 minutes or so between mouse clicks.

After you successfully complete one of these courses you will be asked to type in information for your completion card. “Unit and Number” is Troop 1853. For “Council” just type “National Capital Area” (without the quotation marks); the word “Council” is on the form.

When you click “print certificate” at the end of each course, you will see a Print dialog box for your printer. At that point you can change your printer's preferences to color if you wish. I would also suggest selecting ‘Best Quality’ if that is a software option on your printer; some of the type on the completion card is pretty small. If you have any card stock, you might want to insert a sheet in your printer. Another option is to get your paper 'card' laminated at Staples. Print two copies, and mail one of them to the Council so that it can update your training record. The address is:

Registration Department
National Capital Area Council
9190 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3897

After you complete either or both of these classes, please show Martha Crumpacker your completion card so that she can record your training in the Troopmaster database. Martha is at most troop meetings.

You may want to print this page for reference before proceeding to the online courses. To take the online “Safe Swim Defense” and/or “Safety Afloat” courses, [click here](#).