



In any camp where there is a waterfront within a half-mile, Scouts will gravitate to it like bees to honey. Most Scouts like nothing better than a swimming session or a couple of hours in canoes or boats.

In this program feature we will capitalize on that interest by providing a month of fun and, at the same time, encouraging the boys to become stronger swimmers and better boaters and canoeists.

If possible, hold all troop activities this month at a waterfront or swimming pool. The troop meeting plan for this month suggests both water activities and alternatives that may be used if you must meet at your regular meeting place.

If the troop does not have access to a waterfront or pool, ask for help from your unit commissioner or district activities committee. They may be able to suggest municipal pools, facilities at a YMCA or YMHA, or even school or motel pools that might be used. For these facilities, it will probably be necessary to hold troop activities in off-hours.

At a minimum, the troop's goal should be to have all Scouts advance out of the nonswimmer class by the end of the month. If most of your Scouts are already good swimmers, urge them to work toward the merit badges in swimming, lifesaving, and aquatic sports, and the Snorkeling, Mile Swim, BSA, and BSA Lifeguard awards.

The big event will be a water show for the troop's families or a water expedition with canoes or rafts. The patrol leaders' council's choice of events for the show will depend on how many Scouts have earned the swimmer designation.

## SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- A better understanding of physical fitness.
- Greater swimming skills and perhaps greater skill in handling canoes, boats, or other craft.
- Enhanced self-confidence.

## ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their physical fitness requirements through First Class. Depending on the activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

### *Tenderfoot*

- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law
- Physical fitness—Health, conditioning, swimming

### *Second Class*

- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law
- Physical fitness—Health, conditioning, swimming

### *First Class*

- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law
- Physical fitness—Health, conditioning, swimming

**Merit Badges.** Older Scouts can concentrate on the Swimming merit badge this month; they should be able to complete many of the requirements. Depending on activities during the month, they may also complete requirements in Lifesaving, and if the facilities permit, other aquatic-related merit badges such as Canoeing, Rowing, Athletics, and Small-Boat Sailing.