

Merit Badge Counseling Risk Management and Quality Control

<p>7010 Supervisory Qualifications and Certifications</p>	
<p>Several badges involve activities for which the Boy Scouts of America has implemented strategies to improve safety, enhance the Scouts' experiences, and manage risk. These activities often require supervision with specialized qualifications and certifications. Merit badge counselors who do not meet the specific requirements may use the services of helpers who do. Additional details can be found below, and also in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> and the merit badge pamphlets.</p>	
<p>General Supervision Requirements</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming and watercraft activities must be conducted in accordance with BSA Safe Swim Defense or BSA Safety Afloat, respectively, and be supervised by mature and conscientious adults at least 21 years old and trained in the program applicable. Counselors for merit badges involving swimming or the use of watercraft must be so trained, or use helpers who are. 	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org) BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat</p>
<p>All physical activities presented in any Scouting program must be conducted in accordance with the "SAFE Checklist." These four points, embodying good judgment and common sense, can be found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe..</p>	<p>"SAFE Checklist" www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPR instruction, wherever it is required, must be taught by people currently trained as CPR instructors by a nationally certified provider, such as the American Red Cross, the Emergency Care and Safety Institute, or the American Heart Association. 	<p>American Red Cross Emergency Care and Safety Institute American Heart Association.</p>
<p>The following merit badges have special qualifications or certifications for either the merit badge counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved.</p>	
<p>Counselors and advancement administrators should consult the merit badge pamphlets for details and to maintain awareness of changes and updates as pamphlets are revised.</p>	
<p>Climbing. All climbing, belaying, and rappelling exercises and activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult rock-climbing instructor, age 21 or older, who has completed BSA Climb On Safely training and who understands the risks inherent to these activities. Training as a BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended. Someone with certification in First Aid/ CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities. Current policies are found in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a and supersede any other publications or literature.</p>	<p>BSA Climb On Safely Training as a BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended. Current policies are found in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a</p>
<p>Snow Sports. Activities in the field must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult 21 years or older who is committed to compliance with BSA Winter Sports Safety. Current policies are found in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss12/#b.</p>	<p>BSA Winter Sports Safety. Current policies are found in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss12/#b.</p>
<p>The qualifications below for aquatics-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current policies are</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org)</p>

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<p>found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02 and supersede any other publications or literature.</p>	
<p>Canoeing. Those supervising canoeing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.</p>	<p>BSA Aquatics Instructor (National Camp School); or Canoeing Instructor certification from American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent</p>
<p>Kayaking. Those supervising kayaking activities must have formal training in kayaking and paddle craft instruction, evidenced by either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.</p>	<p>BSA Aquatics Instructor (National Camp School); or Canoeing Instructor certification from: American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent</p>
<p>Lifesaving. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, with certification in Red Cross FirstAid/CPR/AED or equivalent, and as a BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.</p>	<p>Red Cross FirstAid/CPR/AED or equivalent; and BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.</p>
<p>Motor Boating. Motor boating activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed Safety Afloat training.</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org) BSA Safety Afloat</p>
<p>Appropriate credentials include current or previous certification by an organization (such as the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the US Powerboating component of US Sailing) that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.</p>	<p>Current or previous certification by an organization National Safe Boating Council, United States Power Squadrons, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Powerboating component of US Sailing that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating</p>
<p>Rowing. Those supervising rowing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.</p>	<p>BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent</p>
<p>Scuba Diving. All phases of scuba instruction— classroom, pool, and open-water training—are limited to instructors trained and certified by one of the BSA’s recognized scuba agencies as found in the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i>.</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org) Scuba 19-515.pdf (scouting.org)</p>
<p>Small Boat Sailing. Those supervising sailing activities must have completed Safety Afloat training. They must be mature and conscientious adults age 21 or older. Appropriate credentials include instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association for sailing experience with different hull types including the rig being used for instruction; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org) BSA Safety Afloat Safety Afloat instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association for sailing experience with different hull types including the rig being used for instruction;</p>
<p>Swimming. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org) BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat</p>
<p>Water Sports. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Boy Scouts of America</p>

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<p>must be conducted according to BSA Safe SwimDefense and BSA Safety Afloat.</p>	<p>scouting.org BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat</p>
<p>Whitewater. Those supervising whitewater activities must be certified as whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.</p>	<p>Whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructor by the American Canoe Association or equivalent</p>
<p>The qualifications below for shooting sports-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current policies are found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a and supersede any other publications or literature. See the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> and the <i>BSA National Shooting Sports Manual</i> for further details on shooting sports.</p>	<p>Shooting Sports Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org)</p>
<p>Archery. Archery activities must be supervised by a BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.</p>	<p>BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director USA Archery Instructor National Field Archery Association instructor At least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.</p>
<p>Rifle Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzleloaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)-certified muzzleloader firearms instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.</p>	<p>Certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach.</p> <p>Muzzleloaders NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)-certified muzzleloader firearms instructor.</p> <p>Shooting must be supervised by: NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO).</p>
<p>Shotgun Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA-certified muzzleloading shotgun instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.</p>	<p>Certified NCS shooting sports director, NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach</p> <p>Muzzle-loading shotguns: NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA-certified muzzleloading shotgun instructor.</p> <p>Shooting must be supervised: NRA-certified Range Safety Officer</p>
<p>All certifications listed above must be current</p>	