



BSA Aquatics Play Structure Policy Announcement

Innovative and creative Aquatics Play Structures currently exist in many Scouting settings with more Councils and Scouting groups looking at them every day and with more Play Structure options coming into the marketplace every day. Many local Councils have asked about safety requirements for use of Aquatics Play Structures and guidance in how to operate them. The National Aquatics Task Force has worked to develop:

- A BSA Aquatics Play Structure Policy which applies to all Play Structures operated in Scouting. Although Aquatics Play Structures take many forms – inflatable, floatable or fixed structures that include slides, swings, mats, logs, rockers and climbing or bouncing devices – certain policy elements apply to all.
- Operational Practices and Procedures Guidance for three of the more popular Play Structures found in Scouting (it is intended that additional Operational Practices and Procedures Guidance documents will be created for additional

Aquatics Play Structures as the need for new areas develop)

- [The Blob](#) and other inflated catapult devices
- [Climbing Devices](#) would include Icebergs, Climbing Walls and other devices designed to climb to some height
- [Rockers](#) which are play structures used in a see-saw mode

The Aquatics Play Structure Policy has now been added to the [Aquatics Safety](#) section of the Guide to Safe Scouting and should begin to be implemented at local Councils.

You can also find the policy and guidelines on the [Aquatics Program](#) portion of the Outdoor Programs webpage.

Councils with Play Structures covered by the Guidance documents should review them against your current operational practices and procedures and implement changes as needed. Engagement of your Aquatics and Enterprise Risk Management Committees is recommended.

2014 National Aquatics Workshop

The biennial National Aquatics Workshop is returning to the Florida SeaBase on October 22-26, 2014. If you're a Council Aquatics Committee Chair or Member, a National Camping School Aquatics Section Director or Staff or anyone else with an interest in BSA Aquatics you're encouraged to attend.

The Workshop is designed with discussion sessions on subjects like Starting a New and Energizing an Existing Aquatics Committee, BSA Health and Safety Update, Aquatics Supervision Programs, Aquatics Activity Awards Update, Trends in Aquatics Recreation, American Red Cross Aquatics



National Aquatics Task Force

National Outdoor Programs Team

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Update, BSA's Connections to US Boating Agencies. You will also have a chance to participate in a Hands-On Skill Development Round Robin to learn how to develop new local programs, how to improve instruction capabilities, and you'll receive expert feedback on your own skills. Expected opportunities include Sit-on-Top Kayak techniques, Stand-Up Paddleboard basics, Canoeing basics and advanced and using the brand new SeaBase pool (see pictures below) Learn-to-Swim Instruction and Swimming Stroke Refinement.

The Workshop cost is \$200 and includes meals, dormitory housing and course material. Space is limited to the first 100 participants but open spots are still available! To register, go to <http://reservations.scouting.org/profile/32719>

We have also arranged with the American Canoe Association to run their Level 1:

Introduction to Stand-up Paddleboarding Instructor Certification Workshop for those wishing to arrive by dinner time on Tuesday October 21st. The course will begin after dinner on October 21st and the skills portion will be complete by dinner time on October 22nd. The additional cost for meals and housing is \$50 and will be collected on-site at the SeaBase. For those without an ACA membership, you will be required to obtain a membership for \$40 at the beginning of the course. You can use the registration link above to register for the course. There will also be pre-course work that you will receive about two weeks before arrival. For additional information on the course check out the two links below:

- [Level 1: Intro to Stand Up Paddleboard – Skills Course](#)
- [Level 1: Intro to Stand Up Paddleboard – Instructor Criteria](#)





Florida SeaBase Scuba Staff Training Opportunities

The Florida Sea Base is the premiere aquatics facility of the Boy Scouts of America and their scuba programs are second to none with \$1.5 million invested in custom built dive boats, and another \$1.5 million being invested in their new scuba training facility which will open shortly. During the summer months they have 148 divers making multiple dives daily under the supervision of 22 PADI Divemasters and Instructors and a total scuba staff of 42. In 2012 the Florida Sea Base upgraded to 5 Star Instructor Development Resort status with PADI. Captain Steve Willis and Captain Bert Hubby are the PADI Course Directors instructing at the Florida Sea Base

The Florida Sea Base hosted the first PADI Instructor Development Course ever offered at a BSA facility on October 17-25, 2013. They conduct PADI Divemaster and Scuba Instructor training at a greatly discounted price each year as part of its staff recruitment efforts. Candidates will agree to work at the Florida Sea Base the following summer in return for the discounted training.

The Florida Sea Base will be hosting its second PADI Instructor Development Course from September 25 to October 3, 2014 with a PADI Instructor Exam being offered in Key Largo on October 4-5. They will also be hosting their 11th annual PADI Divemaster Academy in December 2014. For details on either program, go to http://www.floridaseabasenews.com/?page_id=1436 and scroll to the bottom of the page or <http://www.bsaseabase.org>.

While this training is currently only offered to those able to work on the Florida Sea Base staff for a summer, their goal is to offer PADI Divemaster and Instructor training in the near future to Scouters who will lead or teach diving in local councils. If your Council has an interest in diving and have people able to join the SeaBase diving staff for next summer it might be a great -- and reduced cost -- opportunity for you to get advanced training and certification that can then be used back in your local council.





2014 National Aquatics Workshop

Florida National High Adventure Sea Base
Islamorada, Florida
Oct. 22-26, 2014

**COME ENJOY THE SUN,
SAND, AND WATER OF
THE FLORIDA KEYS.**

Each session will be staffed by experienced, well-informed Scouters. The schedule includes ample time to enjoy the warm climate and natural beauty of the Florida Keys. The conference is especially well suited for council aquatic chairs and National Camping School staff members.

Some of the topics to be covered include: new Stand Up Paddleboarding, the revised *Aquatics Supervision* manual, aquatic play structures, Safety Afloat/Safe Swim Defense, 2015 camp standards, aquatic merit badges, Cub Scout aquatics, National Camping School lesson plans.

The \$200 conference fee includes meals, dormitory housing, and course materials. Space is limited to the first 100 participants and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.
The reservation deadline is Sept. 30, 2014.

The conference begins with dinner on **Wednesday, Oct. 22**, and concludes after breakfast on **Sunday, Oct. 26**. A what-to-bring list will be provided about 30 days prior to the workshop. The Sea Base is about 90 minutes from Miami International Airport. Shuttle services are not available, but a list of participants will be provided for carpooling.

Stand Up Paddleboarding instructor certification will be offered to anyone who wishes to arrive a day early. **The session details and cost are incomplete at this time but will be sent to anyone who registers by July 1, 2014.**

To register, go to <http://reservations.scouting.org/profile/32719>