



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079
972-580-2000

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To: Scout Executives

From: Terry C. Lawson, Director
Boy Scout Advancement

Subject: Swimming Merit Badge Requirements

The National Boy Scout Advancement Committee recommended changes in the requirements for the *Swimming* merit badge that were approved by the National Boy Scout Committee on October 16, 2001. These changes become effective on January 1, 2002. Youth have the option of doing the requirements listed in the *Boy Scout Requirements 2001* book or these new requirements. The significant changes are:

First Class requirement 9(c) has been removed from the First Class requirements and is now requirement 4 of the *Swimming* merit badge.

Requirements 7 and 9 have been combined and are now requirement 8. This requirement will now read as follows:

8. Do **ONE** of the following:

a. Snorkeling and scuba diving

- (1) Demonstrate selection and fit of mask, snorkel, and fins; discuss safety in both pool and open-water snorkeling
- (2) Demonstrate proper use of mask, snorkel, and fins for underwater search and rescue.
- (3) Describe the sport of scuba diving or snorkeling, and demonstrate your knowledge of BSA policies and procedures relating to that sport.

(OVER)

OR

b. Demonstrate the following competitive swimming skills:

- (1) Racing dive from a pool edge or dock edge (no elevated dives from racing platforms or starting blocks)
- (2) Racing form for 25 yards on one competitive stroke (front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, or butterfly)
- (3) Racing turns for the stroke that you chose in 8b(2), **OR**, if the camp facilities cannot accommodate the racing turn, repeat 8b(2) with an additional stroke.
- (4) Describe the sport of competitive swimming.

Requirement 11, "Assist with instruction in basic swimming skills." has been deleted entirely.

Please keep these changes in mind as you prepare for the next summer camping season.