



## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE



## Table of Contents

WRVOA'S Welcome Letter.....	Page 3
History of Peaceful Valley.....	Page 4
Venturing Oath & Code.....	Page 6
Guest Speaker & Trainer.....	Page 6
Tentative Participant Schedule.....	Page 7
Getting to Peaceful Valley ~ Directions & Map.....	Page 9
Check-in Procedures.....	Page 10
Sleeping Assignments.....	Page 10
Pre Event Swim Checks.....	Page 10
What to Bring .....	Page 10
Prepared for Life – 10 Essentials.....	Page 11
What to Leave at Home .....	Page 12
Health & Safety.....	Page 12
Venturing Youth Protection.....	Page 12
Medications.....	Page 13
Emergencies and Medical Care.....	Page 13
Council Policies.....	Page 14
Ranch Emergency Procedures.....	Page 14
Checking Out.....	Page 15
Forms to Bring to Camp.....	
• Health Form (Parts A&B)	
• SCUBA Liability Release & Medical Form	
• COPE Parental Consent for with Packing List (These forms Available for Download @ The Extravaganza Registration page.) <a href="http://www.denverboyscouts.com/Registration">http://www.denverboyscouts.com/Registration</a>	
• Unit Swim Classification Record (At end of Participant Guide)	

## WRVOA's Welcome

Welcome Venturers!

We are very excited to have you join us this weekend for the Western Region Venturing Extravaganza and X-Games! The Western Region Venturing Officers' Association (VOA) is very happy to be hosting this event with our host, the Denver Area Council. We have so many fun activities planned for both youth and adults this weekend, so we all hope you have a wonderful time.

For youth, there will be a plethora of activities both on Friday night, Saturday, and even on Sunday! For adults, we will be offering the new Venturing Advisor Specific Training on Saturday afternoon and adults can also participate in some of the activities we are offering. As you can see, there is something for all to do this weekend.

Our Saturday evening banquet will focus on the current "hot topic" in the Venturing community—our new Venturing Awards program! Have you heard about the changes to Venturing yet? Do you have any follow up questions? If so, you do not want to miss this banquet. Get ready to hear about everything you need to know about the new Venturing Awards program from our National Venturing President, Maddie Culwell! She has a great presentation and lots of information to share with you about the new Venturing Awards.

We are very happy to end our summer with you this Labor Day Weekend at the Western Region Venturing Extravaganza. We hope you make some new friends from around the Western Region and push yourself to "Lead the Adventure" this weekend!

*Yours in Venturing,*

*The Western Region Venturing Officers' Association*

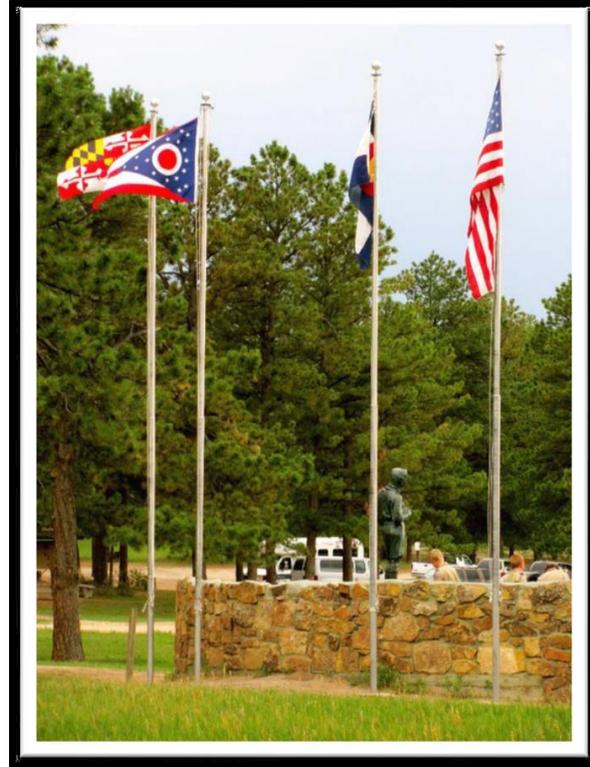


## A Brief History of Peaceful Valley

For thousands of years, the Arapaho and Kiowa Indians inhabited the land that is now Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch. A few signs of their time remain with us. Before the Spanish brought horses to North America, hunters on foot would drive buffalo over small cliffs, known as buffalo drops. On the ranch mesa, it is still possible to see signs of both buffalo wallows and drops.

In the late 1800s, the Native Americans were forced from their ancestral lands by European settlers. These early frontiersmen built small homesteads, traces of which can still be found in several isolated parts of the ranch. One of the more visible ruins is located in the valley below Ship Rock.

Early settlers found many things they needed to establish their homes. Maps of Colorado from the turn of the century show a saw mill just south of the ranch. The ranch had a good stand of white pine, which was used for lumber to build many of the buildings in Elbert, and also in Denver and Colorado Springs. However, all the white pine was logged off, and none can be found on the ranch today.



The farms in the valley around 1900 were very productive, thanks in large part to Kiowa Creek. The creek is still considered to be one of the best water sources in the county. For awhile, potato farming worked well on mesa fields, but an infestation ended that crop. Dairy cattle were a mainstay of many farms; an old milk house was found on the ranch but has since been removed.

The Kiowa Creek valley was so prosperous that a railway was constructed in the early 1900s. The "New Orleans and Colorado Springs Line" gave farmers a link to markets in both Denver and Colorado Springs. In 1935, the railroad was heavily damaged by flooding, and not repaired. Another flood in 1965 washed away the remaining structures, but traces of railroad bridge pilings can still be found on the ranch near the horse stables, and occasional sections of roadbed are visible on the east side of the valley.

As the valley grew, so did the farms and ranches. Our ranch buildings help to tell the story. In the late 1800s, the ranch owners and their large family lived in a one-room cabin just south of Elbert, on the north end of what became known as Peaceful Valley

Ranch. In the 1920s, the owners constructed a three-bedroom home known today as the Bunkhouse. Today's ranch house followed, in the early 1930s. This four-bedroom home was built from a kit purchased from Sears and Roebuck! The barn was built in the same period. Horses were kept on the second level, reached by a large earthen ramp. Cattle were kept on the lower level. If you visit the barn, note the heavy timbers that support the second floor.

### ***The Beginnings of Scouting at Peaceful Valley***

In the 1950s, the Scouting movement was expanding rapidly, along with the nation's postwar population. The Council's existing camp, Camp Tahosa, was too small to support the future needs of the Denver area, and the search for a replacement began. In 1961, the Council purchased the 2,500 acre Peaceful Valley Ranch from the Abrahamson family.

Initial construction of Scout facilities took place in 1961-1963. Some of the old ranch buildings and equipment were removed and roads were opened. The brown lodge buildings we use today were constructed from kits. The Navy SeaBees, as part of their training process, provided most of the labor; a memorial to them can be found near the office at Dobbins. In 1965, Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch opened to campers. Tahosa was still the Council's main camp, so activity and expansion was limited to unit camping and a very small summer operation.

### ***Peaceful Valley Develops***

Toward the end of the 1970s, the Council concluded that Tahosa would need to be replaced soon. Facilities at PV were expanded as much as the limited budget would permit. The Gates family, which had long operated prosperous rubber-products plants in Denver, funded construction of the old swimming pool. These remains are located southeast of headquarters.

The first "real" summer camp took place in 1981 -- four weeks of camp, and a total of 480 campers! Food was prepared at the ranch house, which had become the ranger's home, and delivered to camp. Campers ate in a tent, and got their meals from a counter located in what is now the Jackson QM (named in honor of Sam Jackson and his wife, Edna, the first ranch rangers and operators of that early camp). Camp was great, and the drive to expand had started!

In 1983-1984, a 19 acre lake, at the site of a flood control dam, was dedicated to Harold Silver, a past council president. The current William R. Kephart Dining Hall opened in 1986. Mr. Kephart was Scout Executive in that period, and was a major force behind the expansion of PV.

The original camp facilities were renamed in honor of Cris Dobbins, who was a major contributor for the expansion. He had been successful in the energy business. On his

death in 1987, he left a major endowment fund to the Council, with the stipulation that its income be used only for camp maintenance.

During the late 1980s, development of what is now Camp Dietler began. The camp opened as Camp Colorado in 1990. It was renamed Camp Cortlandt Dietler in 1993. Mr. Dietler, who owned an oil and gas company, and was an active member of the Council Board of Trustees, made a generous gift to support programs at Camp Dietler.

As the Council grew, the need arose for a dedicated Cub Scout camping facility. Planning began for development of a new camp on the west side of the ranch. Initial construction took place during 1992-1993. The facility opened as Camp Adventure in the summer of 1994. In 1996, shortly before his death, it was renamed for Bob Magness, a very successful Denver cable television operator.

Peaceful Valley remains a working ranch. Approximately 1,000 acres are set aside for crops and cattle. The "cash crops" of alfalfa, wheat, and oats are used to feed ranch livestock, as well as for sale. Income from the ranching operation helps provide for ranch maintenance and operation.

### **The Venturing Oath**

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

### **The Venturing Code**

As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people.

I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.

I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.

I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.

I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.

### **Guest Speaker**

Come to the Western Region Venturing Extravaganza Banquet on Saturday night to hear National Venturing President, Maddie Culwell, discuss the new Venturing Awards Program! Maddie will be joining us all the way from the Greater Alabama Council to answer your questions about the new Venturing Awards Program.

Maddie will be starting her junior year at Birmingham- Southern College where she is majoring in Biology and is on a PreMed track. She has earned her Silver Award as well as the Den Chief Service Award for her service as a Cub Scout Den Chief for three

years. Maddie has worked at Corner Scout Reservation for over three years as well as staffing NYLT four times and Wood Badge five times. The Western Region Venturing Officers' Association is proud to have Maddie at our Western Region Venturing Extravaganza!

\*There will be a formal presentation on the new Awards Program followed by a Question and Answer session to ask more specific questions about anything you heard.

### **Venturing Advisor Position-Specific Training**

Calling all Venturing Adults! Have you heard about the new Advisor specific Venturing training? Have you taken it yet? If the answer is no, be sure to join us on Saturday afternoon to take the brand new Venturing Advisor Position-Specific Training course for no extra charge! We are very excited that Ken Bower, Western Region Venturing Advisor, will be conducting this training for Advisor attendees. This training will cover how to be an effective Advisor with the new Venturing Awards Program, including how to implement the new system in your Crew! There will be a new Venturing Awards Program question and answer session during Saturday evening's banquet for any questions that you may still have after taking this training.



### Tentative Participant Schedule\*

#### Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

2pm-6pm	Check-In & Registration open @ HQ
2pm-6pm	Open Swim Checks @ Pool
6pm-6:45pm	Dinner for Travelers & Staff @ Dining Hall (Local Participants & X-Games Participants should Eat on their own prior to arrival.)
6pm-7:00pm	X-Games Check-in @ HQ
7:00pm-7:30pm	X-Games Adult meeting, staff event assignments @ Dining Hall
7:00pm-7:30pm	X-Games Shooting Sports Orientation <b>(Required)</b> @ Gilwell Hall
7:30pm-8pm	X-Games Participants Rally & Rules in Dining Hall
8pm	X-Games Begin! @ McKenzie Range - Good Luck!

#### Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

1:30am	X-Games Ends! Awwhhh!
1:30am-2:30am	X-Games After Party @ Pool (Food, Music, Water games and More Fun!)
2:30am-6:30am	Quiet Please! People are resting...
7am-9am	Coffee & Light Breakfast in Dining Hall

9:00am Flags @ McKenzie Range  
 9:15am Extravaganza Shooting Sports Orientation @ Gilwell Hall  
 (Required for all participants.)

10am Brunch – Dine-in or Dine-out Brown Bag  
 (The dining hall will be open or you may pack a lunch to go.)  
**Tentative Participant Schedule\***

**Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

11am-4pm OPEN PROGRAM  
 Climbing/Repelling – Ship Rock  
 COPE – Rotating times check in @ HQ  
 Geocaching/Orienteering/SAR Course – TBD  
 Boating & Water Rescue - Lake Front  
 Scuba @ Pool  
 Disk Golf (Self Guided) – Check out & Maps @ HQ  
 Mountain Biking – Check out & Maps @ HQ  
 Archery – Archery Range  
 Shooting Sports @ Shooting Ranges  
 -Rifle  
 -Pistol  
 -Shotgun  
 -Muzzle loading  
 Tomahawks & Buck Sawing – Laredo Campsite  
 Amateur Radios, Fox Hunt, & Ham Radio Demonstrations – Ham Shack

11am-3pm Venturing Advisor Training & Q&A @ Gilwell Hall

4pm-5pm Free Time – Get Ready for the Banquet!

5pm Flags @ McKenzie Range

5:15pm-6pm Midway Displays @ Dining Hall

6pm-8pm Western Region Extravaganza Banquet  
 Dining Hall

9pm-10pm Primitive Light Open Mic Night @ Campfire Ring

10pm-12am Cracker Barrel & late Movie @ Gilwell Hall

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

7am	Open Check out @ HQ ( <b>All</b> persons <b>must</b> check out!)
7:30am	Flags @ McKenzie Range
8am-9am	Interfaith Service @ the Chapel
9am	Continental Breakfast @ Dining Hall
10am-12pm	Intro to Sporting Clays
10am-11:30am	Open Pool
12 Noon	Lunch @ Dining Hall & End of Program Closing.

Thanks for attending the 2014 Western Region Venturing Extravaganza!  
*\* This schedule is subject to change, as programs and/or safety may require.*

## How to Get to Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch



From Denver, take I-25 south to Exit 184 onto Founders Parkway near Castle Rock. Turn left at stop sign to Founders Parkway. Take Founders Parkway to traffic light (Highway 86 intersection). Turn left at stop light onto Highway 86 and follow Highway 86 through Franktown and traffic signal at Parker Road. Continue on Highway 86 through Elizabeth until you come to Elbert Highway on your right (just before the town of Kiowa). Turn on Elbert Highway and continue through the town of Elbert. Turn left (east) into Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch at the second entrance for Camp Cris Dobbins and Camp Dietler.

Peaceful Valley address is:  
22799 North Elbert Road,  
Box 97, Elbert, Colorado 80106.

Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America  
10455 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80215

Main Camp Number: 303-648-3023  
Fax Number: 303-648-3345

Camping Department: 720-266-2143  
Fax: 303-455-4689

## **Check-In Procedure**

### **Friday, August 29th Check-In**

Check-in will begin at 2:00 p.m. at HQ. Staff will direct you at the parking lot. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., you will be greeted by a member of the Extravaganza staff who will help guide you through the check in process.

Participants and Advisors **MUST** have all forms ready to turn in. Please be prepared to settle all remaining financial obligations at check-in. The Extravaganza Registrar will collect all this information at HQ. At HQ, participants will also go through medical check-in with Venture Crew 911. Each participant should have their personal medical form and any medications on their person to turn in to our Medics. Once all business has been taken care of, you will be directed to your appropriate camping/lodging area. After campsite setup, you may hike to the pool for swim checks (if not completed prior to the event), so make sure to have swimming suits and towels easily accessible.

### **Sleeping Assignments**

Camping and lodging assignments will be given when you check-in.

There is adequate space for those that wish to pitch their own tents.

As always, there will be separate tent and lodging assignments for both youth and adult, male and female attendees.

### **Pre-Event Swim Checks**

All participating Venturers who will be using the pool and boats are required to have a current swim check within the past year. We can conduct a swim check when you arrive, but, **to help expedite the check-in process we strongly recommend that swim checks be done before coming to camp.** If you wish to do your own crew swim check, please use the form included in this packet. Procedures are explained on the form. Please make two copies of your swim check (one for the aquatics staff, and one for your crew records.)

## **What to Bring**

### **Required Equipment**

- Sleeping bag/bedding
- Personal first aid kit
- Extra clothing
- Rain gear (ability to cover head to toe). Poncho alone may be inadequate, Rain jacket/pants are best.
- Water bottle – *Hydrate!* PV is at altitude, so please *hydrate* throughout the day!
- Headlight/flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Trail food/snack
- Matches/Fire Starter (discretion of Advisor)
- Sunscreen
- Map and Compass (Maps of the Camp with Events marked will be given at check-in.)
- Day Pack – big enough to carry rain gear, water bottle, 10 essentials, etc.

### **Recommended Personal Equipment**

- Small mattress, cot or pad (mattresses are not provided except for in lodges)
- Small pillow (optional)
- Sleep clothing
- Good walking shoes or hiking boots (preferably broken in)
- Sneakers (for backup and games)
- 3-4 pair socks - Preferably wool or blend, easier to dry and keep feet warm when wet.
- 3-4 changes of underwear
- 2 pair of shorts – nylon works very well
- 2-3 t-shirts
- 1 hat (broad brim is best)
- Venturing uniform
- Belt
- Swimsuit – You are going to need this!
- Long sleeve shirt(s)
- Long pants
- Fleece or sweater – avoid cotton sweatshirts, as they are useless when wet
- Outer jacket – It gets cool at night in Colorado!
- Long underwear – optional for those who get cold easily
- Stocking cap or beanie (optional)

### **Other Equipment**

- Toilet kit - toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, shampoo, soap, washcloth, lip balm
- Towel(s)
- Alarm Clock and/or wristwatch
- Notebook and pencils/pens
- Handbooks
- Medical Form (completely filled out and signed before you arrive)
- Medications in original container
- Eyeglasses and/or sunglasses
- Small camera (optional)
- Swim goggles (optional)
- Pocketknife - small (optional)
- Spending money, money for class/fees, in a wallet with your name
- Book, football, Frisbee, cards, etc.

### **Prepared For Life!**

All Venturers and Advisors attending a Denver Area Council Camp need to be prepared! Venturers and Advisors must bring the Scouting 10 Essentials to camp, and have a day pack big enough to carry them if needed. Under normal circumstances, they don't necessarily need to be carried at all times (however, recommended), but should be readily accessible if needed, even when away from your campsite. **HOWEVER: If the BSA facility is placed in pre-evacuation area for fire, flood or other causes, all Venturers and Advisors will be required to have their Ten Essentials with them at all times.** In addition, the Venturer/Advisor should place in their pack all other items of value and carry their wallet, identification, cell phone/charger, car keys and medications (adults). During an evacuation, this day pack may be the only items you can take, and the day pack will be on your lap. It is the responsibility of the Crew Leadership to ensure that everyone in their Crew, youth and adults have the necessary equipment.

**Scouting 10 Essentials:** Pocket Knife, First Aid Kit, Extra Clothing, Rain Gear, Water Bottle, Flashlight, Trail Food, Matches/Fire Starter (SM discretion), Sun Protection, Map and Compass. (Maps of the camp with events marked will be given at check-in.)

**Other Items to Carry:** Insect repellent, whistle, personal medications (with Camp Medic), cash, spare batteries, space blanket, family contact list, medical history form.

### **What Not to Bring**

Please do not bring alcohol, firearms, tobacco, fireworks, illegal drugs, highly odorous products. Clothing with inappropriate language or graphics will not be permitted.

Electronic devices such as radios, tape/cd/mp3 players, electronic games, and cell phones are not recommended in program areas. Crew leadership is responsible for setting campsite and travel policies regarding electronic devices.

## **Health and Safety**

### **Youth Protection Training for Adults**

All adult Advisors and participants of required age, who will be remaining on the ranch during the Extravaganza, must have a current Venturing Youth Protection Training Certificate. Certification is valid for two years. Leaders who have not been through the training will be required to take youth protection training when they arrive at the camp.

### **Youth Protection Guidelines for Camp**

**Sleeping Arrangements.** Adult leaders and Venturers must sleep in separate tents. An adult leader may sleep with his/her son, but not with other youth. All participants must have at least one tent-mate.

**Showers and Locker Rooms.** Anyone over the age of 18 must use designated adult shower facilities, located in Gilwell Hall or establish separate adult/youth shower times at the campsite. Youth shall not use adult facilities.

**Discipline and Treatment.** Venturers will not be subjected to physical harm or discipline, fear, or intimidation. Venturers will not be roughly handled, struck, or shaken. Separation will be brief and appropriate to the age and circumstance, and in a safe and comfortable place within hearing distance of an adult. Meals may not be denied as punishment.

**Language.** Verbal abuse, discriminatory or derogatory remarks, and off-color conversation shall not be tolerated.

**Leader Conduct.** Adult leaders should avoid unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact with Venturers. Two-deep leadership is required. Any one-on-one meeting must be held in a public setting.

**Abuse to be Reported.** Any adult leader who becomes aware of actual or possible child abuse is required by Colorado law to make a report. Contact Extravaganza staff or ranch management immediately. They will evaluate the situation, and proceed in accordance with legal requirements, and BSA policies.

**Discrimination.** Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch and the Denver Area Council, B.S.A. is an equal opportunity facility that does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, color, race, creed, or religion. All participants shall observe this code while on the ranch.

### **Medications**

**Under Colorado Law, medications for youth must be securely stored and dispensed by the Event medical staff.** All medications must be turned into the event medical staff and then dispensed to the participants by the event medical staff. During the check-in process, all participants must individually check in all their medications. If a

crew advisor before arrival collects medications, please distribute them back to participants at check-in time. Inhalers, epi-pens, bee-sting kits or similar emergency items will be inspected at check-in, but can be held by the participant.

All medications checked in must be in the original containers, marked with the participant's name and crew number and original medication information. Do not cover up the information and instructions on the medication. Dosages and schedules to be followed in camp must be the same as on the package; changes must be stated in writing. Medication in pillboxes and non-original containers will not be accepted. **Please send only enough medication for the doses that will be administered for the event.**

### **Emergencies & Medical Care**

Every precaution is taken to insure a healthy and safe camping experience for all participants attending Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch. However, accidents do occur. The event medical staff will be responsible for initiating care of all medical situations. Basic treatment within the scope of the event medical staff will be provided at no additional cost. Venture Crew 911 will be available at the Med Lodge and roaming on camp.

The medical staff is available at all times. Crew Advisors should contact the medical staff or any Leadership Team member for assistance, **EVEN IN EMERGENCIES**. The Ranch Director and Medical Director are the individuals that are authorized to call 9-1-1 on our ranch and should be the only ones to do so in an emergency. Should a non-emergency problem arise, such as an illness that is beyond the scope of our medical technicians, we will contact the parents and crew advisor. The parents and unit leaders must then arrange for care, and transport the participant to a medical facility. We are not able to provide transportation for such situations. The costs of such care must be paid by the parents or unit leaders; insurance claims are filed by the parents. In the event of an injury or illness requiring immediate specialized medical attention, the care of your Venturer will be turned over to emergency medical personnel, who may require the use of ground or air ambulance service at their discretion. All expenses associated with medical care are the responsibility of the participant's parent(s) or guardian(s). The providers will bill the responsible party.

### **Council Policies**

While at Peaceful Valley there are several basic policies we ask you follow.

**Bicycles** – Helmets are required at all times, and lights are required at night. Cycling is allowed only on roads and designated bike trails, not on walking trails.

**Camp Property** – Use only the buildings, areas, and property that you have permission to use. Be sure to return anything you use, and let the Extravaganza Staff or Ranger know if anything like propane or cleaning supplies is running low.

**Personal Property** – it is highly encouraged that anything brought to Peaceful Valley has your name, crew number, council initials, and phone number on it. Valuables and electronics are likely to get damaged or lost.

**Wild Animals** – PVSR has many wild animals, large and small. Keep food securely stored in vehicles and sealed containers. Do not store food in tents. Remove trash promptly and do not leave full bags outside overnight.

**Fires** – Elbert County often has a fire ban. Any type of fires will be coordinated by Extravaganza Staff or Ranger.

## **Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch Emergency Procedures**

### **Severe Weather**

In the event of severe weather, follow these guidelines: Seek shelter in buildings or tents. Stay out of open areas. Stay off the lakes and out of the pool. The area directors can inform you of more specific safety precautions at each area. When in doubt, ask an Extravaganza Leadership Team member. Program areas may be closed and the pool and lakes will close for a minimum of 30 minutes after thunder and 1 hour after lightning.

### **Lightning**

If lightning becomes a serious threat, immediately take precautions. Get out of open areas, and off of high ridges. The best shelter is in a nearby building. Do not cross a large open area to get to a building if the storm is close! If a building is not available, seek shelter in the “cone of safety” extending down at a 45-degree angle from a cliff face, but don’t contact the cliff. Stay in dense forest areas. Don’t be the highest point in an open area! Avoid close proximity to walls, fences, plumbing, tent poles, trees, or large metal objects. Avoid shallow depressions. Remove packs with frames. A group of people should spread out. Unless in a building, squat down on only your feet. If strikes are near, keep your mouth open to minimize ear damage from pressure change.

### **Tornado**

In the event of a tornado, you will hear a wavy tone on the camp emergency siren. If you can do so safely, make your way to Gilwell Hall, located under the Dining Hall. If there is an immediate danger, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression. When you hear a steady siren, return to Gilwell Hall (the basement of the Dining Hall) and wait for instructions from the Extravaganza Leadership Team. Bring your unit roster so you can complete a roll call. **DO NOT SEEK SHELTER IN ANY BUILDING BUT GILWELL HALL!**

## **Fire**

If you see or suspect a fire, notify the Extravaganza Leadership Team immediately. Do not try to put out the fire yourself. If a serious fire has been reported, you will hear a steady tone on the camp emergency siren. Go immediately to the McKenzie Range (the main flagpoles) and stay off roadways, so that emergency vehicles may pass quickly and safely.

## **Lost Person**

For a lost person, check their tent and surrounding campsite. Then check their last known program area or location, and the trading post. If the person cannot be found promptly, immediately notify the Extravaganza Leadership Team while continuing to search.

## **Carry Car Keys and a Crew Roster**

When we assemble after an emergency, we will ask crew advisors to account for all those on your roster. The process will go quicker if you have a roster copy. Adults should always carry a roster while in camp. If it becomes necessary to evacuate camp, we will rely on your drivers for transportation. You may not be able to return to the campsite. Drivers should carry their keys at all times.

## **Contacting Families in an Emergency**

If your crew should have a need to contact the families of participants, we recommend you set up a “phone tree” suitable to your situation, so that a crew advisor can contact one or two people back home, and they can contact families. The crew advisors should carry this information with them at all times.

## **Check-Out**

### **Sunday, August 31st Check out**

Beginning at 7am, participants may begin to check out at HQ. Since the camp cannot be closed until all souls have been accounted for, please make sure you check out. If you must leave at a time other than is designated, please contact the Extravaganza Registrar to make other arrangements. Thank you!



## **Swim Classification Procedures**

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America activity is a key element in both Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. The swim classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor season. Traditionally, the swim classification test has only been conducted at a long-term summer camp. However, there is no restriction that this is the only place the test is conducted. It may be more useful to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit going to summer camp.

All persons participating in BSA aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The classification tests and test procedures have been developed and structured to demonstrate a skill level consistent with the circumstances in which the individual will be in the water. The Swimmer's Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability for recreational and instructional activity in a confined body of water with a maximum 12-foot depth and with shallow water footing or a pool or pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer.

The various components of each test evaluate the several skills essential to the minimum level of swimming ability. Each step of the test is important and should be followed as listed below:

### **SWIMMER'S TEST (Blue):**

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side stroke, breast stroke, trudge, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be swum continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

### **BEGINNER'S TEST (Red):**

Jump feet first into water over the head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before, and return to starting place.

### **NON-SWIMMER TEST (White):**

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF SWIM CLASSIFICATION TEST (THE COUNCIL CHOOSES ONE OF THESE OPTIONS):**

##### **OPTION A (at camp)**

The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by Camp Aquatics personnel.

##### **OPTION B (Council conducted/council controlled):**

The council controls the swim classification process by predetermined dates, locations and approved personnel to serve as aquatics instructors. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

**OPTION C (At unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people):**

The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people: Aquatics instructor, BSA; Aquatics Supervisor; BSA Lifeguard; certified lifeguard; swimming instructor; or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under direction of the Camp Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or retest all participants to ensure that standards have been maintained.

Participant's Name:

---

Swim classification:

---

**Name of Person Conducting Swim Test:**

---

**Name of Certification:**

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**Signature:**

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