

Merit Badge Counselor Guidelines
per
Guide to Advancement

Merit Badge	Certifications/Trainings	Additional Requirements for Activities
Archery	USA Archery or National Field Archery Association Level 1 Instructor	
Canoeing	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor Certification	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Climbing	BSA Climb on Safety BSA climbing level 2 instructor or equivalent recommended Minimum Age of 21 years or older	First Aid/CPR/AED from American Red Cross or equivalent required for activity
Kayaking	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor Certification or Kayaking Instructor Certification	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Lifesaving	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent Certification BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent Minimum Age of 21 years or older	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Motor Boating.	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat 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. Minimum Age of 21 years or older	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Rifle Shooting	National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle instructor or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle coach	Range Safety Officer (RSO) is required for shooting

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Scuba Diving	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat BSA Recognized Scuba Agencies instructor certification	Required for any Swimming done BSA Lifeguard or red cross
Shotgun Shooting	National Rifle Association (NRA) shotgun instructor or National Rifle Association (NRA) Shotgun coach	Range Safety Officer (RSO) is required for shooting
Small Boat Sailing	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat 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. Minimum Age of 21 years or older	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Snow Sports	BSA Winter Sports Safety Minimum Age of 21 years or older	
Swimming	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
Water Sports	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or
White water	BSA Safe Swim Defense BSA Safety Afloat Whitewater Canoeing or kayaking instructor from American Canoe Association	Required for any Swimming done: BSA Lifeguard or equivalent or