



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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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.

**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 b(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.