

The right way to take your Cub Scouts swimming or boating

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Here's your five-step plan.

Step 1. Learn about aquatics-related Cub Scout adventures.

The new Cub Scout program includes one aquatics-related adventure for each rank, but you'll notice they're all elective, not required.

These adventures include aquatics:

- **Tigers:** Floats and Boats
- **Wolves:** Spirit of the Water
- **Bears:** Salmon Run
- **Webelos/Arrow of Light:** Aquanaut

Step 2. Have a Plan.

Want to enjoy **aquatics activities with your pack or den outside of a council or district event? Then you should use the Tour and Activity Plan as a tool for doing so. Forward the completed plan to your council at least 21 days in advance.**

It's actually pretty quick and easy, and you can do it all online.

Just log in to [myscouting.org](#) and select the tour and activity plan under your "Unit Tool."

For more info on the Tour and Activity Plan, check out [this handy FAQs page](#).

Step 3. Have Qualified Supervision.

If you're taking your pack or den swimming or boating, you need to know what you don't know. The good news is you can complete this training online.

Safe Swim Defense: Any time you take Scouts swimming, even if you're going to a council event or local pool where lifeguards are present, you still need leaders trained in Safe Swim Defense.

- You can take Safe Swim Defense online at [my.scouting.org](#). (Click My Dashboard, then Training.)
- You always need at least one leader trained in Safe Swim Defense — even if you're somewhere that provides lifeguards.
- When lifeguards are *not* present, you need additional rescue personnel trained in Safe Swim Defense.
- Swim tests are not optional. A key part of BSA aquatics is knowing one's limits.
- Safe Swim Defense training is good for two years.
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Safety Afloat: You are permitted to take Cub Scouts boating as a pack or den. (Previously you could only go boating with your Cub Scouts at district or council events.) But any time you take Cub Scouts boating, you need at least one leader with Safety Afloat training taken within the previous two years. At least one adult leader must be trained in first aid and CPR as well.

- You can take Safety Afloat training online at [my.scouting.org](#). (Click My Dashboard, then Training.)
- For Cub Scout boating activities, the ratio of trained adults, staff members or guides to participants must be at least one to five. (For Boy Scouts, it's one to 10.)
- Cub Scouts must know how to swim to try paddle sports.
- All participants must wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Any swimming done in conjunction with the activity afloat should operate using Safe Swim Defense.
- It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained in BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety to assist in the planning and conduct of all activities afloat. (Contact your council aquatics committee for assistance.)
- Safety Afloat standards apply to the use of canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts, floating tubes, sailboats, motorboats (including waterskiing) and other small craft but do not apply to transportation on large commercial vessels such as ferries and cruise ships
- Safety Afloat training is good for two years.

Scuba: Cub Scouts aren't permitted to do scuba.

Step 4. Learn more.

Learn more about aquatics safety in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) or the [Outdoor Program website for aquatics](#).

Step 5. Have fun!

Now that you've done your part to make Cub Scout aquatics activities safe, go have fun!

March – Loyal/National Treasures

1-March 1 – National Peanut Butter Lovers Day – see the PB&J Game



March 13th

Buzzard Day - I bet you think of a buzzard as a “gross” bird – but have some COMPASSION – check out the Fun Facts About Buzzards. You will be surprised! (And it’s often the same way with people who are different, or groups you think you don’t like – if you find out about them, or get to know them, you might be surprised!) **By the way – The California Condor is a Buzzard. And there is a large effort ongoing to save the California Condor.**



Fun Facts About Buzzards

Alice, Golden Empire Council

- ✎ Buzzards are actually gentle birds – they can’t kill their prey. And if they disappeared, we’d be overrun with dead animals!
- ✎ Buzzards are actually vultures – and they can only hiss or grunt, since they don’t have voice box!
- ✎ They are the most graceful fliers in the world, even though they look ugly and awkward up close!
- ✎ Vultures are bald for a good reason – so the carrion (dead meat) they eat doesn’t stick to them.
- ✎ The naked red heads of the adult turkey vultures look like (surprise) turkeys!
- ✎ They can smell carrion from over a mile away. They also have good eyesight!
- ✎ During the hot summer months turkey vultures will “poop” on their feet to cool them off.
- ✎ Turkey vultures don’t build a nest, and they pick really hard to find places to use!
- ✎ Vultures mate for life.
- ✎ The California and Andean Condors are actually in the vulture family.

- ✎ As groups of vultures catch thermal updrafts they look like water boiling in a pot – so they are called kettles. Turkey vultures have been reported by aircraft pilots to rise to as high as 20,000 feet and soar for hours without flapping their wings.
- ✎ Turkey vultures can travel up to 200 miles a day, and they don’t eat while they are traveling!
- ✎ They are very large, but only weight 2-3 pounds, so they can “float” in columns of rising air for hours – and they don’t flap their wings, but just rock from side to side and ride the currents!
- ✎ Hawks look for “kettles” – groups of flying vultures – because they know the vultures always find the best thermals!
- ✎ Turkey vultures can swoop up to 60 mph in order to avoid being “mobbed” by ravens or jays.
- ✎ Turkey vultures can live up to 24 years.

Leader Awards for Pack Treasures

LIFE SAVER AWARD	A pack of Life Savers
TOP BANANA	Plastic banana
BRIGHT IDEA	Light Bulb
STUCK ON SCOUTING	Bottle of glue
IMPORTANT LINK	Link of chain

99.9% - Is it good enough?

Not at all. In the United States, it would mean:

- one hour of unsafe drinking water per month
- two unsafe landings at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport every day
- 16,000 lost pieces of mail per hour
- 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions each year
- 500 incorrect surgical operations per month
- 50 babies dropped at birth by doctors each day
- 22,000 checks deducted from the wrong accounts each hour
- your heart fails to beat 32,000 times each year.

Next time you are doing something for the boys, den, or pack think about the possible consequences of how it will affect them when you don’t give 100%.

March 3rd - National Anthem Day

Our National Anthem is The Star Spangled Banner. It was written by Francis Scott Key. He wrote the lyrics on September 14, 1914, during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. It was originally called “Defence of Fort McHenry”. There were many patriotic songs, and The Star Spangled Banner became another one of them, one that struck at the heart of Americans, and gained popularity over the years. But, for a long time, America did not have an official national anthem.

It wasn't until over 100 years later, that The Star Spangled Banner became our national anthem. On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution officially making "The Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States of America

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A few people incorrectly assumed that National Anthem Day is September 14, the day the song was written. This is incorrect. National Anthem Day is every March 3rd, the day that congress made it our national anthem.

March 16 - Absolutely Incredible Kids Day

Celebrate today by letting your kids know how good they are, and how much you love them.

Origin Campfire USA created this day as a day in 1997, to show kids they are loved and cared for

TONGUE TWISTERS – just for fun

1. How much dew would a dewdrop drop if a dewdrop could drop dew.
2. Jasper the genius genially jogged and jumped joyously.
3. Four flat flounders fought five ferocious flukes.
4. Bluebirds bring bright berries.
5. She sheared six shabby sick sheep.
6. Bluebirds bathe in the blue birdbath.
7. French fried fresh fish.
8. Slimey slippery sycamore saplings.
9. Red Leather, Yellow Leather
10. Good blood, Bad Blood
11. Shy soldier
12. Kick six sticks quick
13. Seashore, seashore
14. Fred fetches fresh fish each Friday.
15. The sizzling sun shines on six swinging shop signs.
16. Wicked witches will whisk switches.
17. Two treetoads tied together tried to trot to town.
18. A big black bug bit a big black bear.
19. Susie's shirt shop sells pre shrunk shirts.

Applause

BADEN-POWELL APPLAUSE: Stand very erectly with your hands clasped behind your back in parade rest position. Look left to right, then right to left, smile slightly, and then nod head as if saying yes.

APPLAUSE AND CHEER: When you raise your right hand, everyone applauds. When you raise your left hand, everyone cheers. When you raise both hands, they applaud and cheer.

Three Little Pigs Cheer: Wolf, Wolf, Wolf!!!!

Goldie Locks Cheers: Bears! Bears! Bears!

Pinewood Derby Fun

Wheel Yell: "Squeak – squeak – squeak"

Flat Tire Yell: "Hissssssss..... (Like air escaping from a tire)

Motorcycle Applause: Start engine with foot, rev-up and take off with hands out like on handlebars, yelling "VAROOOOOOOM"

Gathering Quiz

1. A form of transportation that does not run on wheels is _____.
Skateboard Snow-mobile
Blade skates Tank
2. The inventor of the wheel is unknown, but the first record of a wheeled vehicle goes back 5,000 years to ancient _____.
Babylonia Sumer
Egypt Greece
3. The wheel is a form of a simple machine called the _____.
Pulley Wedge
Screw Lever
4. The earliest wheels were made of _____.
Joined wood slabs Bronze
Chiseled stone Iron
5. The first important improvement in construction was the _____ wheel.
Wire Disk
Welded Spoked
6. A major improvement in the wooden wheel was _____.
An iron rim Flat area elimination
Harder wood Axle lubrication
7. Starting with the 13th century, a person who made and repaired wheels was called a _____.
Wheeler-dealer Wheelwright
Wheelsman Wheelie
8. Around 1830, a new kind of wheeled vehicle began to appear, the _____.
Steamboat Stanley steamer
Shaftmobile Steam locomotive

Answers: (1) Snowmobile (2) Sumer (3) Lever (4) Joined wood slabs (5) Spoked (6) An iron rim (7) Wheelwright (8) Steam locomotive

Games & Such around national treasures

National Treasure – Weather & Food– we need water sunshine, seasons to make things grow, people treasures in our community

Snowball fight

Stuff: You'll need newspapers, masking tape, a timer, and disposable wipes.

Play: Form two groups. Divide the room into two equal-sized areas with a masking tape line. Give each group an equal amount of newspaper. On your signal, let kids make newspaper "snow" balls and quickly throw them back and forth at the opposing team for two minutes. The object is to get more "snow" on the opponent's side when time's up. After the fight put all paper in garbage/recycle and clean hands with wipes

Vegetable Bowling --Set up bowling pins – empty or nearly empty water bottles – bowl with vegetables (potatoes, squash,) keep score like bowling – probably just a few frames or score by teams that rotate players. Be prepared for the vegetables to split/smash.

🕒Pass the Hat – the treasures in our community

Some people in your community wear distinctive hats while they work -- construction people wear hard hats, some restaurants have special caps, nurses, firemen, baseball players, etc. Collect enough such hats for each player to wear one. Form a circle with all but one Cub Scout wearing a hat. On signal, each player reaches to his right, removes the hat from that person, and places it on his own head. Speed up the signals and then suddenly have everyone stop. Speed up the signals and then suddenly have everyone stop. The Cub Scout without a hat drops out. Start again (with one less hat) and continue until only two players are left. Change the directions from time to time during the game.

🕒Football Game – a national treasure game

One team gets on each side of a table. Each side tries to blow a ping-pong ball off the opponent's side of the table.

🕒Feather Blow Relay – birds are a national treasure

Blow a feather 25 feet and return touching off the next Cub Scout. The more the merrier for this event.

🕒Fluff – birds are a national treasure

Carry feathers on a plate. Cub Scout must pick up any that drop.

🕒Relay of Beans – food is a treasure

Carry beans, one at a time on a knife.

Peanut Butter and Jelly – (3/1 is peanut butter lovers day)

Purpose: Encourage eye hand coordination, motor timing and motor planning. Practice self regulation skills.

Materials: Two different colored balls

Activity: Have the children sit on the floor in a large circle. Choose one ball to be the peanut butter and the other ball will be the jelly. The object of the game is to always throw the peanut butter ball and roll the jelly ball. On start, the child holding the peanut butter ball throws it to anyone in the circle and the child holding the jelly ball rolls it to anyone in the circle. Whoever receives the peanut butter ball must continue to throw it to someone else whereas the jelly ball must be rolled. If a player makes a mistake and rolls the peanut butter ball, throws the jelly ball or if both balls (peanut butter and jelly) are in front of one player at the same time, then that player is either out of the game or play starts over (which ever you prefer).

Make sure the children keep quiet and calm during the game since it does take some concentration.

Want to make it harder? Add another ball – maybe a "bread" ball. The children must pass the bread ball to the right only. Add a "fluff" ball and you can only pass that ball to the left. Change the skills assigned to the ball – switch peanut butter to roll and jelly to throw. It gets confusing quickly! Try standing up and playing to vary the motor skills – you will have to squat down to roll the ball. Add kicking the ball instead of throwing.

Want to make it easier? Start very slowly. Start out by only practicing throwing the peanut butter ball. Stop using that ball and practice rolling the jelly ball. Add both balls when ready but do not have any competition involved

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION—the treasures we have

Blue—All those with blue eyes pat the top of their head

Brown--All those with brown eyes pat the top of their head

Left--All those that are left handed clap their hands

Right--All those that are right handed clap their hands

New—All those under 20 years of age stomp your feet

Old—All those over 20 years of age stomp your feet

Man—All males stand up

Woman—All females stand up

One day a MAN and a WOMAN went to the store

looking for a NEW car. Their OLD one, which was muddy BROWN, was not running well. It LEFT much to be desired in the way of speed and safety, and they wanted another one RIGHT away. They wanted a bright blue one.

As they walked in the dealership, the WOMAN noticed a BLUE sports car on the showroom floor. "Darling," said the WOMAN. "Look at the lovely NEW car RIGHT over there. Wouldn't it be perfect for us. You may be RIGHT, it's a lot better than our OLD, BROWN buggy.

Unfortunately, there's one problem. I've LEFT all my money at home," said the MAN. "You've LEFT it at home?" asked the WOMAN. "Yes, it's RIGHT in the pocket of my NEW BROWN suit", said the MAN.

"Your NEW BROWN suit? Why I took that suit to the cleaners just this morning, and I didn't notice any money in any of the pockets," said the WOMAN.

"But I'm certain I LEFT my money in the side RIGHT pocket of my NEW BROWN suit," the MAN said as he scratched his head in wonder. "Now wait a minute! Are you saying I'm not RIGHT? Are you saying I'm wrong about this? MAN oh, MAN oh, MAN! You have a lot of nerve!" shrieked the WOMAN.

"Let's not argue. We're here to look at cars, and that BLUE one in the corner is a RIGHT nice model. And just think. If we buy the NEW BLUE car, we'll never have to worry about our OLD BROWN one again."

After looking at the price of the NEW BLUE car, and figuring out what they could get as a trade in on their OLD BROWN one, the MAN and the WOMAN decided buying a NEW car would be the RIGHT move for them. But before they LEFT the store, they started questioning their decision. Would they be better off with the OLD BROWN car if the NEW BLUE one didn't run RIGHT? Or what about a NEW BROWN one? How long before they thought of the NEW car as the OLD car? And would they ever feel BLUE about trading in their BROWN auto? BLUE or BROWN, OLD or NEW, what was RIGHT and which car did they want to be LEFT with? The MAN and the WOMAN were so confused that they decided to sell their car and buy themselves bicycles. And that's just what they did. And they knew it was a RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT.