**Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About the Swim & Boating Tests**

There is nothing quite as refreshing as going for a swim on a hot day, especially after spending a few nights in a tent. Canoeing or kayaking on a calm lake, river, or pond is often the highlight of camp. With a little bit of planning (and paperwork), we can ensure that every girl in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island who is capable of swimming and boating is able to do so at Girl Guide events. Every girl and adult member (or non-member) who wishes to participate in swimming and/or boating at a GGC event must complete the Swim Test or Swim Test for Boating.

**Test results are recorded on the Swim and Boating Test Verification Forms (WA.2 or WA.3). These forms can be found in the “Forms” section of the GGC national website.**

Some ideas to help your unit complete the tests:

* Arrange in advance to have a lifeguard conduct testing for your unit during a public swim.
* Book a private pool session and arrange to have a lifeguard conduct the testing (this can be more economical if a number of units organize this together or it is run as a District event)
* Ask caregivers to provide copies of the equivalency documents (*Red Cross - Swim Kids 5* or *Lifesaving Society - Swimmer 4*) and attach them to the WA. 2 or WA. 3.

**NOTE: Girls or adults who have completed the Swim Test (or equivalent) do not need to do the Swim Test for Boating.**

Send the completed forms to the Provincial Office (Girl Guides of Canada, 55 Rothesay Avenue, Saint John NB E2J 2B2). It is recommended that a copy of the forms be kept by the unit and brought to events that include swimming/boating. If the testing is conducted in advance of a Provincial event, it is strongly recommended that the **forms be submitted at least one month prior to the event** to ensure that the information is added to the iMIS profiles.

 Waterfront Facilitators are responsible for ensuring that every girl and adult participating in swimming and/or boating has completed the appropriate testing for these activities. Facilitators at a GGC event or camp will be provided with an up to date iMIS report to verify testing. If any member does not have the appropriate testing listed in this report, they will be considered a **non-swimmer**.

Help make wonderful camping memories (and avoid disappointment) by making the completion of the Swim and Boating Tests a priority for your unit.

Here is some additional Information taken from ***2017 Safe Guide***:

**Swimming (p. 99)**

When GGC is responsible for providing aquatic supervision (e.g. lifeguards), anyone (girl and adult) who wants to swim without a personal flotation device (PFD) must successfully complete the swim test. This includes non-members.

Swim tests do not need to be re-tested. If a participant does not successfully complete the swim test, they are considered a **non-swimmer** and the Aquatic Personnel must ensure that she does not go in the water more than mid-calf-deep without a PFD.

To successfully complete the test the swimmer must:

* Swim 50 metres
* Tread water for one minute

**Boating (p. 117-119)**

Swim Test for Boating for **Girl Participants**:

Wearing a properly fitted PFD, participants must:

* Swim 25 metres
* Demonstrate the HELP position for one minute.

Swim Test for Boating for **Adults**:

Wearing a properly fitted PFD, participants must:

* Swim 75 metres
* Demonstrate the HELP position for one minute.

Swim Tests for Boating completed by girl members do not need to be re-tested. However, if they become an adult member, they must be re-tested for the adult distance (75 metres vs 25 metres).

***Swim Test Equivalencies:***

*Red Cross - Swim Kids 5*

*Lifesaving Society – Swimmer 4*