



PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council can involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to assist with swimming instruction.
- Inviting parents to come along on the water expedition.
- Inviting the whole family to your water show.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue your planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Older boys may want to plan a canoe trip at one of the BSA's high-adventure bases.
- Decide whether to make the big event a water expedition or water show. Remember that for a canoe or raft trip, only Scouts who have been classified as "swimmers" are eligible to go since the BSA Safety Afloat plan bars nonswimmers from all water craft except rowboats and motorboats. So, if many of your Scouts cannot be expected to earn the swimmer designation before the big event, better plan for a water show. See the ideas on these pages.
- Choose a site or water course for the big event. Assign someone to secure the necessary permissions; ask for help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- If the big event will be an expedition, arrange to borrow or rent equipment. (Some local Scout councils will rent canoes.)

- If possible, arrange to secure a waterfront or pool for all troop activities. (Remember that it may be necessary to change regular meeting dates to use these facilities.)
- Plan the details of troop meetings for the month. Consider inviting Swimming merit badge counselors to help with swimming instruction. You might also ask counselors for other aquatics merit badges to help, depending on available facilities and equipment.
- Hold a junior leader training session on controlling the group. (*The Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

Water Show or Expedition

The patrol leaders' council should plan the big event based on the swimming ability and desires of the Scouts. The PLC will probably prefer a water expedition, such as a canoe or raft trip, but only those classified as swimmers will be eligible to go.

If the troop has a lot of nonswimmers or beginners, it is best to have a water show—or have both events, with only swimmers taking part in the expedition.

Water Show

This is a day of water fun and water safety demonstrations for the whole family. It could be held at a swimming pool or at a waterfront. If it is held at a waterfront and canoes and boats are available, the program can be more varied. The day might end with a troop family picnic and campfire.

The following are some suggested activities.