

## Tecumseh Council Aquatics Committee Charter

1. Mission
2. Structure of Committee
3. Membership Composition
4. Meeting
5. Roles and Responsibilities
6. Resources

## Mission

The Tecumseh and Miami Valley Council Aquatics Committee enhance local aquatics activities by being the center of effort for recreational and instructional programs in, on and under the water. The goal of the committee is to further the aims of scouting at the unit, district and council levels through safe, enjoyable aquatics programming. Key activities include training for both youth and adults, programming, advancement, and safety. A primary role is attracting, developing and retaining qualified leadership to support those activities. The committee consists of volunteer specialists who work closely with other Tecumseh and Miami Valley committees that have joint aquatics responsibilities.

## Structure of Committee

The Tecumseh Council and Miami Valley Council Aquatics Committee is a standing committee of the Tecumseh Council and the Miami Valley Council.

## Membership Composition

The Committee has two chairs, one from Miami Valley Council and one from Tecumseh Council for an indefinite term. The committee does not have a set number of members required, however it is desirable to have at least five members. Other members of the committee are the professional advisor from one or both councils and the aquatics director from Camp Birch when the position is staffed. Other members can be specialists in water crafts or in charge of events.

## Meetings

The Committee will meet quarterly, the second month of each quarter and other times as needed for planning of events.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Training

- o Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat
- o Basic swimming and boating skills training for unit leaders
- o Basic water-rescue skills training for unit leaders
- o Development of unit aquatics activities for unit leaders
- o Camp aquatics staff training in:
  - Aquatics skills
  - Effective teaching of aquatics skills
  - Aquatics safety, including lifeguarding

- Basic canoeing
- Basic crew rowing
- Basic whitewater
- Non-swimmer instruction

## Program

- o Promote learn-to-swim programs for all Scouts and especially for Cub Scouts by providing opportunities and incentives to learn to swim.
- o Whitewater canoe, kayak, rafting trips
- o Snorkeling BSA
- o Kayaking BSA
- o Boardsailing BSA
- o Mile Swim BSA
- o BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding
- o Whitewater Rafting BSA
- o Scuba BSA
- o Promotion of aquatics high adventure—Northern Tier, Sea Base, others
- o Scuba
- o Enhanced aquatics activities during day camp and resident camp sessions for both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA
- o Special aquatics camp sessions for Scouts and Venturers with emphasis on activities not available during regular summer camp sessions
- o Winter swim programs with learn-to-swim and advancement opportunities for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers
- o Coordination with other councils to promote programs and resources
- o Implementation and promotion of the aquatic portions of the national Red Cross and Scouting agreements and key interface with the assigned Red Cross aquatics liaison in the designated local chapter of the Red Cross
- o Coordination with other agencies (e.g., YMCA, NAUI, PADI, American Canoe Association, etc.) for joint programs or use of facilities

## Advancement

- o Cub Scout adventures for swimming
- o Webelos Aquanaut
- o Second Class and First Class requirements
- o Swimming and Lifesaving merit badge clinics (non-summer camp)
- o Canoeing merit badge (non-summer camp)
- o Assist with selection of aquatic merit badge counselors

## Safety

- o Promotion of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat at the district and unit levels
- o Pre-camp swim classification testing (if applicable)
- o Review of council and district safety training and procedures for aquatics activities, including day and resident camps
- o Inspection of summer camp and other council and district aquatics activities facilities and equipment

## Attraction, Development and Retention of Aquatic Leadership

- o Develop and maintain enough qualified instructors, distributed throughout the council, to timely meet all local aquatics training needs.
- o Assist with sourcing qualified candidates for council aquatics program and safety leadership needs.
- o Assist with interviewing candidates to ensure necessary aquatics experience, training certificates, and aquatics leadership exist.
- o Establish a succession planning process identifying the next aquatics leaders for key roles.
- o Establish a program to train, develop, and retain younger aquatics staff members to become aquatics leaders in the future. This includes staff for summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatics activities. The staff training process for summer camp staff ideally would begin in the January to April time period each year to ensure that a well-trained aquatics staff exists prior to arrival at summer camp.

## Resources

Red Cross Training – [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Scouting America Aquatics Program – [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)