

must complete special training by a BSA Aquatics Instructor or qualified white water specialist. (b) Powerboat operators must be able to meet requirements for Motorboating merit badge or equivalent. (c) A minimum of 3 hours' training and supervised practice is required for all other unpowered watercraft.

For Cub Scouts: Canoeing and rafting for Cub Scouts (including Webelos Scouts) is to be limited to council/district events on *flat water* ponds or controlled lake areas free of powerboats and sailboats. Prior to recreational canoeing, Cub Scouts are to be instructed in basic handling skills and safety practices.*

7. Planning, Float Plan. Obtain current maps and information about the waterway to be traveled. Know exactly where the unit will "put in" and "pull out" and what course will be followed. Travel time should be estimated generously. Review the plan with others who have traveled the course recently.

Local Rules. Determine which state and local regulations are applicable, and follow them. Get written permission to use or cross private property.

Notification. File the float plan with parents or participants and a member of the unit committee. File the float plan with the local council office when traveling on running water. Check in with all those who should be notified when returning.

Weather. Check the weather forecast just before setting out, and keep an alert weather eye. Bring all craft ashore when rough weather threatens.

Contingencies. Planning must identify possible emergencies and other circumstances that could force a change of plans. Appropriate alternative plans must be developed for each.

For Cub Scouts: Cub Scout canoeing and rafting does not include "trips" or "expeditions" and is not to be conducted on running water (i.e., rivers or streams); therefore, some procedures are inapplicable. Suitable weather requires clear skies, no appreciable wind, and warm air and water.*

8. Equipment. All equipment must be suited to the craft, to water conditions, and to the individual; must be in good repair; and must satisfy all state and federal requirements. Spare equipment or

repair materials must be carried. Appropriate rescue equipment must be available for immediate use.

9. Discipline. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for a safe activity afloat. Rules for safety do not interfere with fun when fairly applied.

Note: For cruising vessels (excluding rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and rafts, but including sailboats and powerboats greater than 20 feet long) used in adult-supervised unit activities by a chartered Explorer post/ship specializing in watercraft operations, or used in adult-supervised program activity in connection with any high-adventure program or other activity under the direct sponsorship and control of the National Council, the standards and procedures in the *Sea Exploring Manual*, No. 33239, may be substituted for the Safety Afloat standards.

*Small-boat sailing is not an approved activity for Cub Scouts.

Sample Float Plan	
Float plan of _____	_____
Destination _____	_____
Date and time of departure _____	_____
Date and time of return _____	_____
Boat name and number _____	_____
Description of boat _____	_____
Planned route, going and returning _____	_____
Others who will go along _____	_____
Equipment _____	_____
Clothing _____	_____
Weather _____	_____
In an emergency, contact _____	_____