



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ 4-H Youth Development Program

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

4-H CAMP _____

SWIMMING AND BOATING SAFETY PLAN

**FOR LAKES, STREAMS, RIVERS, OR
OCEANS**

In compliance with:

California Code of Regulations
Title 17, Section 30741

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

CAMP SWIMMING AND BOATING SAFETY PLAN

This Camp Swimming and Boating Safety Plan has been prepared by the Camp Director, in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, Section 30741.

Camp Name: _____

Location Address: _____

Prepared By: _____

Signature: _____

County Director
Signature: _____

Implementation Date: _____

Initials/Annual Review
Date: _____ / _____

Initials/Annual Review
Date: _____ / _____

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Date: _____ / _____

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CAMP SWIMMING AND BOATING SAFETY PLAN

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR A CAMP SWIMMING AND BOATING SAFETY PLAN

The California Organized Camp regulations, located in California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 30741, require each camp to retain on site a written Swimming and Boating Safety Plan for lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans, prepared by the Camp Director, outlining the procedures for addressing swimming and boating issues as follows:

1. The plan shall be submitted to the local health officer prior to use;
2. The plan shall be implemented in accordance with any special conditions specified in writing by the local health officer to protect health and safety;
3. The camp shall maintain and operate one lifeboat or equivalent water safety device to use for water rescue or emergency operations;
4. The camp shall delineate and post water depths and locations of water hazards; and
5. The camp shall provide a Lifeguard that is certified by the America Red Cross, YMCA Swim Lifesaving Certificate, American Lifeguard Association, or equivalent certification.

A template for this plan is available at the ANR Environmental Health and Safety website: http://safety.ucanr.edu/4-H_Resources/Camp_Safety_Guidebook/ where it may be downloaded and edited for subsequent use.

II. CAMP LIFEBOAT

- If the camp swimming and boating area(s) is in a lake, stream, river, or ocean it shall be served by at least one lifeboat that has been determined suitable to meet the needs of the size, location, and use of the camp water facility, population of the camp, and that shall:
 1. Be used for no other purpose than for saving lives or for other emergencies;
 2. Be kept in good repair and readily accessible to the areas of potential use; and
 3. Comply with the operation of a law enforcement vessel and the California Harbor and Navigation Code.
- The camp lifeboat(s) is kept adjacent to the water activities area and is specifically located _____.

III. DELINEATION OF SWIMMING AREAS

- The camp shall clearly delineate the approved swimming area and mark the area as off limits to camp boats and other watercraft.
- The camp shall perform careful soundings of water depth and locate the occurrence of eddies and pools and determine the presence and nature of

dangerous currents, sunken logs, rocks, and obstructions. Based on these information, the camp shall:

1. Post legible signs indicating in plain letters, the depth to water, the location of pools and eddies, sunken logs, rocks, and obstructions, and the presence and direction of currents of water; and
2. The warning signs shall be visible from the swimming or bathing area during the season when bathing and swimming are permitted.

IV. LIFEGUARD SERVICES

- The camp aquatics supervisor shall be at least 18 years of age and possess an American Red Cross Lifeguard Certificate, YMCA Swim Lifesaving Certificate, American Lifeguard Association Certificate, or its equivalent certificate.
- Lifeguard service must be present for all aquatic activities and shall be provided at a ratio of one lifeguard for each 25 campers in the water.
- The lifeguard shall assess swimmer abilities and as appropriate, restrict swimmers with limited abilities to shallow swimming areas or to the use of personal flotation devices when near or in the water.
- The lifeguard shall instruct swimmers about the aquatic emergency alarm and when and how to exit the swimming activity area.
- The lifeguard shall instruct swimmers about the swimming area warning signs and areas where swimming hazards exist.
- If the lifeguard determines a thunderstorm and associated high winds and lightening to be a significant threat to swimmers, then the lifeguard shall declare an aquatic emergency and sound the camp aquatic emergency alarm. Upon hearing the camp aquatic alarm all swimmers shall exit aquatic areas and seek shelter indoors or at designated safe harbors.
- Swimming is not to take place without the camp lifeguard present.

IV. BOATING ACTIVITIES

- Prior to use, inspect water craft for cracks, holes, leaks, broken seats, and other types of damage or disrepair. If a water craft fails the pre-use inspection, remove it from service.
- California regulations require all boats, kayaks, and canoes to have one Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or life preserver for each person aboard. Therefore, the aquatics supervisor should assure each 4-H camper is wearing a properly fitted and approved PFD or life preserver before boarding a boat, kayak, or canoe.
- Inexperienced 4-H campers should not take a water craft out until they have undergone boat, kayak, or canoe training from an appropriately experienced instructor.
- 4-H campers should be made aware of the water craft route and anticipated water conditions, including stretches of white water, strong or swift currents, flooded or low water, or obstructed water where tree limbs, rocks, bridges, reefs, pilings, piers, docks, jetties, or other objects that are potential collision hazards.
- 4-H campers should be taught about the carrying capacity and stability limitations of the water craft they intend to use.

- 4-H campers should be trained to not panic if their water craft capsizes including staying with their water craft.
- 4-H camper should always follow all laws and regulations for waterways and water bodies.
- If the aquatics supervisor determines a thunderstorm and associated high winds and lightening to be a significant threat to watercraft, then the aquatics supervisor shall declare an aquatic emergency and sound the camp aquatic emergency alarm. Upon hearing the camp aquatic alarm watercraft users shall exit aquatic areas and seek shelter indoors or at designated safe harbors.