

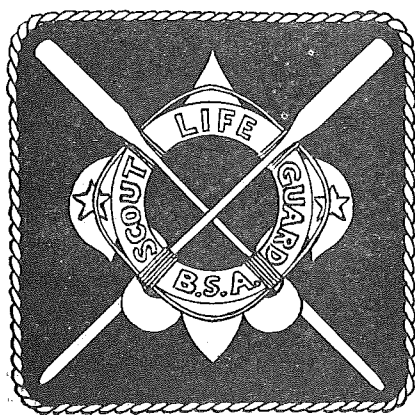
The New Advanced Aquatic Program

IT has long seemed desirable to set up an aquatic plan which would encourage Scouts to become all-round watermen through a set of progressive steps. While the Merit Badge tests are splendid single units, there has not been, up to the first of this year, an effective combination of these tests.

Now We Have It

The Committee on Scout Requirements (officially the Committee on Badges, Awards, Scout Requirements and Uniform Design) with the aid of its advisors has developed a new set of Scout Life Guard requirements which seem to fit the need perfectly. They combine the Merit Badge honors of Swimming, Life Saving and Boating with the more important parts of the old Scout Life Guard requirements and certain other new and very practical ones, including the how of "protecting a Scout Troop swimming party."

The fact that Scouts can grow up with the requirements will encourage many a boy who can't find time in one summer's camp period to go the entire route. The various Merit Badge requirements may be earned over a period of years as the boy advances. When all are completed and he is awarded his Scout Life Guard cer-



Scout Life Guard Emblem

Timely Tips on Scout Protection and Training

By F. C. MILLS

National Director
Health and Safety Service

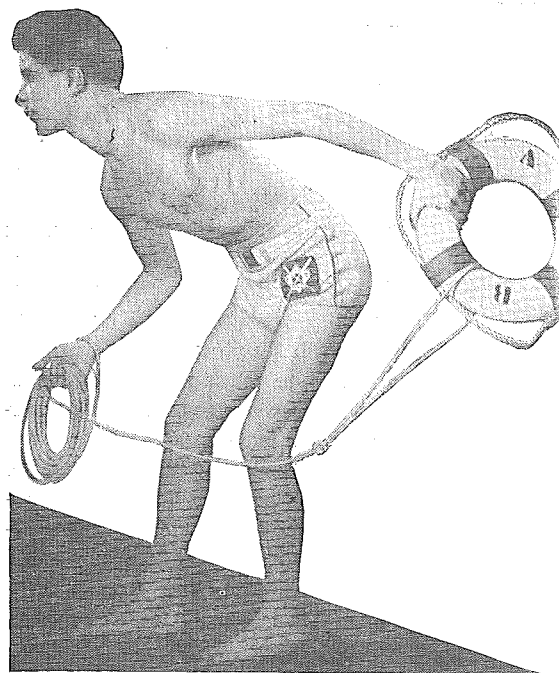
tificate (without cost) and the new emblem which is unusually good looking (if he wishes to purchase it), he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has demonstrated real ability by passing a set of difficult requirements and has made a great start toward becoming an outstanding waterman. As far as we know, there is no other life saving training for any group of life savers, except the professionals, that equals it in scope.

Those Scouts holding either Red Cross Junior or Senior Life Saving Corps certificates receive credit, but that is not required if they have their Life Saving Merit Badge.

The standards of examination will be held high and any part of the test may be subject to review when the final work is taken.

The Requirements

1. Present medical examination certificate of physical fitness.
2. Swim one-quarter mile in good form using, any or all the following strokes: side, back, breast or crawl.
3. Hold the Merit Badge for Swimming.
4. Hold the Red Cross Junior or Senior Life Saving Certificate *or* hold the Life Saving Merit Badge.
5. a. Demonstrate twice his ability to remove (except underpants or bathing trunks) street clothes in 20 seconds or less. b. Watching "struggling" person constantly, remove street clothes on shore in 20 seconds, enter water feet first (by jumping or running), swim 30 feet, make correct approach, and tow victim 30 feet with cross-chest carry to shore.



6. Hold the Merit Badge for Rowing.

7. Throw 15-inch ring buoy equipped with 60 feet of 3/16 inch line between two marks 5 feet apart, 30 feet from throwing mark three times in one minute, re-coil, and leave ready for use.

8. Acting as coxswain of a life boat and using a pole, with a skilled oarsman rowing, approach a "struggling" person correctly, hold him at stern until rowed ashore and then assist him out of the water.

9. Instruct one First Class Scout for three hours in the Merit Badge Requirements in Rowing, or Canoeing, or Life Saving; *or* instruct one non-swimmer for three hours in swimming.

10. Answer ten questions selected by Examiner from the list of questions or problems on safety and rescue methods.

11. Explain the plan for protecting a Troop swimming party, and, with two other Scouts, one acting as a drowning person, demonstrate the rope rescue method described in the plan.

12. Know and be able to explain plan of Camp Waterfront Protection, including Buddy and Check Plan.

Aquatic School Dates

Below are listed the dates of both Scout and Red Cross Aquatic Schools. Excellent training may be obtained at any of these schools:

Scout Schools

Schiff Scout Reservation, Mendham, N. J., June 16-22.
Camp Miakonda, Sylvania, Ohio, June 16-22.

(Continued on page 30)



Five Minutes of Silence



By CARL D.
LANGENBACHER

Sea Scout Commissioner, Pequot Council
New London, Connecticut

FIVE HUNDRED Sea Scouts stood, in orderly file, facing an ancient stone fort on a United States Coast Guard Reservation.

It was five minutes to eight. Not a sound disturbed the June twilight. Over the salt-river, the gulls wheeled and dove in the crimson sunset. High on a white spar, The Flag of the United States floated in the dying breeze. At its base stood a Sea Scout bugler; his service stars tiny golden glints in the gathering gloom. At the halcyards stood two Sea Scout Color Guards; and beyond, silhouetted against the purpling East, was drawn a Sea Scout Guard of Honor. The mightiest artist of the world could not have created a more perfect composition.

It was three minutes to eight; the silence was profound.

The silence was voluntary. Not a command had been given. There was that in the scene which forbade the profanity of noise or motion and the heart of every man and boy was filled with the hushed magic of waiting for one of the greatest honors ever accorded Scouts anywhere.

It was one minute to eight.

A quartermaster stirred nervously at the great bell. The first chill wind of night fluttered The Flag, and through the gathering rippled a tenseness, unseen and unheard.

And then, over that still scene, like a voice from an unreal world, rang the clear words:

"It is time to make eight bells, Sir!"

"Make it so!"

Five hundred backs stiffened.

"Ships of New England! To The Colors! Sa—lute!"

Five hundred hands touched foreheads in the Scout Salute. A thousand eyes, burning with the pride and fire and spirit which is America's, were rivetted aloft. And Old Glory, The Flag of a hundred million people, settled into the arms of those who had been sent to care for her. Over the straight, silent ranks floated the silver notes of Retreat.

"Two!"

The hallowed moment was over and yet no man's voice was raised.

Perhaps but once in a lifetime does God give men such a five minutes; a five minutes in which Sea Scouting was welded still more firmly to her America, in which The Flag had once more stirred men's souls and made them finer.

IT had been the full Color Ceremony on a Government Reservation, carried out entirely by Sea Scouts of Region I, which is New England. The occasion was Pequot Council's "Whaling City Day," when new Ships and old, past Flagships and future Flagships came to gam by the ancient river

that cradled America's earliest ships. Eager, lusty, gentlemanly Young America, garbed in the honorable Uniform of a Sea Scout, come to a town of clippers and whalers and frigates; to visit its Museums, its great Submarine Base, ship-building plants, Coast Guard Academy; to eat evening "chow" at a Coast Guard Base and to listen to sincere, fine Americans talk to them at a tremendous evening rally.

Oh, there were high spots in abundance! The thrill of going down in a submarine, the great salute to the Coast Guard, the sound pictures which no one in America had ever seen before, the visit to the brave little lighthouse tenders; the fellowship of fraternizing with half a thousand Sea Scouts and Sea Scouters from six great States!

It was a great day; all over now. But I can still hear those lusty deep-water chanties, the tug-fuls of cheering Sea Scouts. Oh, what fine moments! What brave moments!

But, oh, what poor moments when I think of that solemn silence when five hundred Sea Scouts stood waiting to salute their Flag . . . those five minutes of utter stillness amidst a day of action and noise and singing when there stole into the hearts of men the simple truth, so mighty it sealed lips, so sacred it stilled all motion, that to be a Sea Scout is to be an American.