



# CAMPING

## WATER SAFETY CHECKLIST



### BEFORE YOU GO:

- Research the body of water near your campsite (lake, river, pond).
- Understand local water hazards (currents, tides, dams, underwater obstacles, marine life).
- Check weather conditions & water temperature.
- Know the signs of drowning & how to respond.
- Know the 5 Layers of Protection.
- Learn basic rescue techniques & CPR with Rescue Breaths.
- Familiarize yourself with how to reach emergency responders & the closest emergency route.

### EQUIPMENT TO PACK:

- Life jackets for all campers (ensure proper fit)
- Waterproof whistle attached to life jackets
- Rescue rope or throw bag
- Water shoes to protect against sharp objects & slippery surfaces
- First aid kit
- A flashlight & extra batteries in a waterproof container

### SETTING UP CAMP:

- Set up camp at least a safe distance away from the water's edge.
- Ensure campfires & other gathering places are away from water sources to prevent accidental falls into water.

### SWIM TIME SAFETY TIPS:

- Always swim with a buddy; never go alone.
- Designate a water watcher when kids are playing near or in the water.
- Have rescue rope, throw bag & something that floats at the water's edge for quick access if needed.
- Avoid using alcohol when participating in or supervising water activities.
- Only swim in designated swimming areas.
- Avoid swimming after dark.

### BOATING & FISHING SAFETY TIPS:

- Ensure boats & canoes are in good condition.
- Store paddles & fishing equipment safely when not in use.
- Understand local fishing regulations & respect wildlife.
- Keep a log of people on the boat & emergency contact names & numbers who are not on the boat.
- Everyone should wear a properly fitted USCG-Approved Life Jacket when recreating on natural water.

Water safety is essential whether at home or on vacation.  
Always be vigilant & make water safety a priority!



SCAN TO LEARN  
**THE 5 LAYERS**  
OF PROTECTION