

# RED CROSS SWIMMING LEVELS

## LEVEL ONE: WATER EXPLORATION

The objective of Level One is to help students feel comfortable in the water and to enjoy the water safely. Students will learn elementary water skills which they can build on as they progress through the various levels.

- 1 - Become oriented to aquatic environment
- 2 - Fully submerge face (3 seconds)
- 3 - Experience buoyancy (bob 10 times)
- 4 - Supported float on front/back
- 5 - Basic breath control (bubble blowing)
- 6 - Enter and exit water independently
- 7 - Move through water comfortably
- 8 - Supported kicking on front/back
- 9 - Introduction to alternating arm action
- 10- Familiarize with getting help
- 11- Reaching assists without equipment
- 12- Learn how to release a cramp
- 13- Wear life jacket and enter shallow water

## LEVEL TWO: PRIMARY SKILLS

**Level Two is to give students success with fundamental skills and learn to float without support. Learn basic self-help rescue skills.**

- 1 - Fully submerge head (hold 3 seconds)
- 2 - Retrieve objects in chest deep water
- 3 - Orientation to deep water with support
- 4 - Front and back float unsupported
- 5 - Unsupported back float or glide (5 sec.)
- 6 - Leveling off from a vertical position
- 7 - Rhythmic breathing (bob 10 times)
- 8 - Step-in entry and side exit
- 9- Flutter kick on front/back
- 10- Back crawl arm action
- 11- Combined stroke front/back using kick/arm movements (5 yards)
- 12- Turning over front/back, back/front
- 13- Become familiar with rescue breathing
- 14- Perform reaching & extension assist from deck
- 15- Float in life jacket (1 min, face out of water)
- 16- Assist non-swimmers to feet

## LEVEL THREE: STROKE READINESS

Students learn to coordinate front and back crawl. Introduce elementary backstroke and the fundamentals of treading water.

- 1 - Retrieve object, eye open, no support
- 2 - Bob and submerge head completely
- 3 - Bob in water slightly over head to travel to safe area
- 4 - Jump into deep water from side of pool
- 5 - Kneeling dive and compact dive from side of pool
- 6 - Front/Back glide w/ push off (2 body lengths)
- 7 - Coordinate arm stroke for crawl with breathing to side
- 8 - Coordinate back crawl
- 9 - Elementary back stroke (10 yards)
- 10- Reverse direction while swimming on front/back
- 11- Tread water
- 12- Jump into deep water wearing life jacket
- 13- Learn how to open airway for rescue breathing
- 14- H.E.L.P. position (1 minute)
- 15- Huddle position in groups of 3 (1 min.)

## LEVEL FOUR: STROKE DEVELOPMENT

Level Four develops confidence in strokes learned thus far and to improve other aquatic skills. Introduce breaststroke, sidestroke and wall turns.

- 1 - Deep water bobbing
- 2 - Experiment with buoyancy and floating position
- 3 - Rotary breathing
- 4 - Stride dive from side of pool from a standing position
- 5 - Elementary backstroke (10 yards)
- 6 - Sculling on back (5 yards)
- 7 - Front/back crawl (25 yards)
- 8 - Basics of Breaststroke (10 yards)
- 9 - Basics of Sidestroke (10 yards)
- 10- Turning at the wall
- 11- Tread water with modified scissors and rotary kicks
- 12- Learn rescue breathing techniques
- 13- Become familiar with CPR

## LEVEL FIVE: STROKE REFINEMENT

**Coordination and refinement of key strokes. Introduce the butterfly, open turns, feet-first surface dives. Increase swim distances.**

- 1 - Alternate breathing
- 2 - Stride jump entry
- 3 - Beginning diving progression
- 4 - Long shallow dive
- 5 - Breaststroke (10 yards)
- 6 - Sidestroke (10 yards)
- 7 - Underwater swimming (3 body lengths)
- 8 - Elementary backstroke (15 yards)
- 9 - Butterfly Dolphin Kick (10 yards)
- 10- Front/back crawl (50 yards)
- 11- Open turn on front/back
- 12- Recognition of spinal injury
- 13- Hip/shoulder support
- 14- Feet first surface dive
- 15- Tread water (2 min., 2 different strokes)

## LEVEL SIX: SKILL PROFICIENCY

The objective of Level Six is to polish strokes so students swim with more ease, efficiency, power, and smoothness over greater distances.

- 1 - Approach and hurdle
- 2 - Jump tuck diving
- 3 - Front/back crawl (100 yards one turn minimum at wall)
- 4 - Breaststroke (25 yards)
- 5 - Sidestroke (25 yards)
- 6 - Butterfly (10 yards)
- 7 - Approach stroke (25 yards)
- 8 - Breaststroke turn
- 9 - Sidestroke turn
- 10- Speed turn and pull-out for breaststroke
- 11- Flip turn for front crawl
- 12- Pike/tuck surface dive
- 13- Alternate kicks for treading water (3 min., 1 minute - no hands)
- 14- Throwing rescue
- 15- Roll spinal injury victim