



# Royal Rangers

## Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

### MOTOR BOATING MERIT

**Note:** Prior to beginning this merit, you must complete the Boating Merit and Swimming Merit.

**Note:** You must comply with your state's licensing procedure before operating a motorboat for this merit.

1. Complete the following:
  - a. List the first aid equipment and supplies that should be on a motorboat.
  - b. List the safety devices that are required on a motorboat according to federal and state regulations.
  - c. List the federal requirements for ventilation, fire extinguishers, and backfire flame control. Explain why these requirements are needed. List your state's regulations if different from the federal regulations.
  - d. Describe how the hazards of weather and wave-swell conditions can affect both safety and performance in motorboating. List ways to ensure that no adverse weather conditions are developing when taking your motorboat out on a lake.
2. Demonstrate your ability to wear, adjust, and use a personal floatation device.
3. Demonstrate your knowledge of the preparation needed for operating a motorboat by making the following inspections prior to leaving the dock.
  - a. Check for the required safety devices that must be in the boat, including fire extinguishers, floatation devices, anchor, etc.
  - b. Check the operation of the lights and horn.
  - c. Check the operation of the controls, such as steering.
  - d. Check the amount of fuel in the tank(s).
  - e. Check all fuel lines for signs of damage, kinks, cracks, or other unsafe conditions.
  - f. Check the battery connections to ensure that they are tight and not corroded.
  - g. Check the propeller to make sure it looks right with no bends, looseness, etc., and that no debris is tangled in the propeller. Check that the propeller is locked down properly in the running position.
  - h. Check the motor prior to starting. Take the cover off and look for abnormal conditions, including leaks, loose parts, loose or disconnected wires, etc.
  - i. Start the motor and warm it up after an "all clear." Notice if it sounds normal. Check for any leaks, such as exhaust fumes, fuel, water, etc.
4. Demonstrate your knowledge of the operation of a motorboat. You must have a state license or permit in your possession.
  - a. Demonstrate how to properly get into a boat.
  - b. Start the motor and get under way from the dock or beach.
  - c. Operate the boat in a straight line for a quarter of a mile
  - d. Make right and left turns, then make a U-turn.
  - e. Stop the boat and shut off the engine, drop and raise the anchor, then get under way again.
  - f. Come alongside a dock. Moore the boat and tie it up.
  - g. Beach the boat; tie it up so it will not drift back into the water.
5. Explain each of the following:
  - a. How to prepare a boat hull for winter or seasonal storage
  - b. How to store the gear, such as life jackets, etc.
  - c. How to prepare the motor for winter