Scouts Australia
Cross Rivers during Bushwalks
Assessment of Proficiency

Branch or State	
Members Name	
Membership Number	
Section e.g. Venturer, Rover, Etc	
Phone / Mobile	
Email address	

Introduction

Welcome to the pathway to achieve proficiency in crossing rivers while bushwalking: on completion of the pathway, you will be assessed for the Scout Qualification: Cross rivers during bushwalking. This qualification is aligned with the requirements for the VET unit Cross Rivers during bushwalking SISOBWG004, although a separate assessment by a Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT) Assessor will be required.

This pathway addresses part of the Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) Bushwalking Stage 7 for youth members.

The pathway is broken into 3 parts

> **Part 1** – Pre-Pathway Evidence items are the things you have to complete before you attend the face-to-face part of the pathway.

> **Part 2** – On Pathway Evidence Items are where you record the skills and knowledge you develop on the face-to-face part of the pathway.

> **Part 3** – Post Pathway Evidence Items that are completed after the formal elements of the pathway.

As you complete the evidence items for each part of the pathway, please attach them to this document. Once you have assembled the full portfolio of documents, please return the document and attachments to the Adult Training Section of your Branch. A review of the documents will be undertaken and once you have been assessed as proficient, this will go towards Activity Specialist Bushwalking qualification. If you are also seeking the VET units, a separate assessment by a SAIT assessor will take place and if you are found to be competent, you will be awarded the relevant issue of competency.

Pre-Pathway Evidence

On-demand Learning: nil for this unit but you should have completed all the on-demand learning to achieve Bushwalking Trained Participant Difficult Tracked Environments.

Recommended Prerequisite Scout Qualifications: desirably you should hold the Bushwalking Trained Participant - Difficult Tracked Environments qualification, or be well advanced in your progression towards that qualification or have extensive experience bushwalking in Difficult Tracked Environments. Ideally, you should also be appointed as an Assistant Guide or Guide in at least Tracked Environments.

Logbook: you should already have a logbook showing a range of day and overnight bushwalks in at least Tracked Environments (ideally with some in Difficult Tracked Environments.

Youth Members: may hold some or all of the above, or hold at least OAS Bushwalking Stage 6.

Practical Learning

Using the learnings from the above, other sources of information and a course (if used) to complete the following items. These aim to demonstrate your level of knowledge.

Discussion topics	Participants notes: Prior to and after Group discussions.
Planning a river crossing: What river features need to be considered when planning a crossing? What hazards and risks are associated with river crossings? Where can you locate information to help plan the crossing? How can you keep your gear dry? What alternatives might exist to crossing a river and when might they be needed?	

Swimming techiques

Defensive swimming – what is it?

Rivers can contain many hazards – how can you avoid them if you end up swimming?

What aggressive techniques can you use to self-rescue?

What can you do to assist someone swimming after a fall in the river?

Ferry angles – what's this?

River Crossing Techniques

Describe some of the techniques that can be used by individuals and groups to cross a swift current up to mid-thigh depth.

What will a safe entry and exit point look like?

What should you look for both upstream and downstream to assist a safe crossing?

What are strainers and why are they dangerous?

Footwear: what should you wear?

Weather Risks:

What types of weather influence whether you should attempt a river crossing?

A team member has gone for a swim and been recovered without their pack. It's around 10⁰C with a wind of about 15kph. Are you concerned?

A River to Cross

Using the photograph *below*:

- What hazards exist?

- Where could you cross?

- What techniques would be useful, and would you use different ones between skilled and unskilled groups?

River Crossing	Practical Demonstration
☐	Demonstrated effective planning for river crossings, including hazard identification and mitigation.
☐	Demonstrated a range of techniques to cross rivers, including individual and group methods.
☐	Demonstrated self-rescue, defensive and aggressive swimming techniques.
☐	Logbook has three current examples of river crossings

	Review
Review your activity, and make recommendations:	
Log Book: A copy of your Log book must be provided – three river crossings are required. -	

Who instructed or assisted you in your activity course and to complete the Workbook:

Name	Role	Qualification

Cross rivers during bushwalks – Assessment of Proficiency

Circle selection:

I   recommend   /   Do Not Recommend

☐   Cross rivers during bushwalks

The candidate has satisfied the requirements for the activity and is recommended as being competent.

Guide/ALT/LT Name: _____   Guide/ALT/LT No: _____

Signature: _____   Date _____