What You Will Discover
Find out what materials and shapes float best and create your own boat.

The Adventure
What makes a boat float and what materials float best? As a small group, select what materials you would like to make your boat out of and then build your boat. Once it’s ready, float it in water! Add weight to your boat to see how well it floats. You can also push your boat to see how well it moves. Make adjustments as needed and keep trying for success!
Plan
• What materials will you use to build your boat?
• Where will you test your boat?
• What materials work best for floating?

Do
#ScoutsDoStuff: Take a photo of your best designs to share with your friends and family.

Review
• What materials and shapes worked best? Did what actually happened match your expectations?
• If you were to make a bigger boat (big enough to hold people) what materials and shapes would you use?

Safety Note
• What steps do you need to take to be safe around water?
• How can you stay safe when using tools or materials that require extra care?
• If you’re building a person-sized raft, what extra equipment do you need? What other safety precautions do you need to take?

Try this
Keep it Simple
Start small! Start by creating rafts out of popsicle sticks or sticks that you’ve found on the ground. Explore why certain materials float and what you can do to help your boat float more effectively.

Take it Further
For Scouts and older: Challenge your Patrol to create a boat or raft that can hold at least one member of your Patrol. Still too easy? Create a raft that can hold your whole Patrol afloat, then race against the other members of your group to see whose raft is the fastest and most efficient.