

AQUATIC CERTIFICATIONS for NYS Bathing Facilities

Fact Sheet – March 2023

(Go to www.health.ny.gov to view most current certification list)

Standards for aquatic/lifeguard certifications are contained in New York State Sanitary Codes (SSC) [Subpart 6-1](#), Section 6-1.31, Swimming Pools; [Subpart 6-2](#), Section 6-2.20, Bathing Beaches; and [Subpart 7-2](#), Section 7-2.5(g), Children's Camps. When the SSC requires "lifeguard supervision" or a "qualified lifeguard" at a bathing facility, an approved lifeguard certification SPECIFIC to the type of bathing facility is required.

NOTE:

- **All lifeguards must possess separate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification in an approved course listed on the [NYS CPR fact sheet](#) unless otherwise indicated in the below table. All CPR certificates are valid for 1 year from course completion, regardless of the expiration date noted on the card.**
- Lifeguard certifications shall be valid for the time period specified by the certifying agency but may not exceed a consecutive 3-year period from course completion. Multiyear lifeguard certifications that include CPR require a CPR certification each year.
- Children's camp lifeguards must be at least 17 years of age, except.
 - A maximum of 50% of the required lifeguards on duty may be 16 years of age;
 - Lifeguards for wilderness swimming must be at least 18 years of age.
- Supervising lifeguards must possess at least Supervision Level IIb certification, be at least 18 years old, and have at least 2 seasons of lifeguarding experience.

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
American Red Cross (ARC) LIFEGUARDING AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 2 YEARS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED IN FIRST YEAR OF CERTIFICATION. *CERTIFICATION TITLES THAT INCLUDE "REVIEW" ARE ACCEPTABLE. †WATERPARK SKILLS or WATERFRONT SKILLS MAY BE A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE ACCOMPANYING THE LIFEGUARDING/FIRST AID/CPR/AED CERTIFICATE.	Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED*			X
	Lifeguarding, Waterpark Skills/First Aid/CPR/AED*, †			X
	Lifeguarding Basic-Level test for Lifeguarding Instructors			X
	Lifeguarding, Waterfront Skills/First Aid/CPR/AED*, †		X	X
	Lifeguarding Basic-Level test for Lifeguarding Instructors with Waterfront Skills Certificate		X	X
American Lifeguard Association (ALA) CERTIFICATE MUST STATE THE WORDS "INSTRUCTOR LED".	Professional Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterpark Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterfront Lifeguarding - Instructor Led		X	X
American Aquatics & Safety Training *CERTIFICATIONS CONTAINING "RE-CERTIFICATION" IN THE TITLE ARE ALSO VALID.	Lifeguard, CPR/AED, First Aid*			X
	Lifeguard, Waterfront, CPR/AED, First Aid*		X	X
	Waterfront Lifeguard*		X	X
Boy Scouts of America (BSA) ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 2 YEARS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE AND CARD HOLDER MUST BE AT LEAST 15 YEARS OF AGE (17 YEARS OF AGE FOR CHILDREN'S CAMPS).	Lifeguard, BSA		X	X
	Aquatics Instructor, BSA		X	X
Breezy Point Cooperative, Inc.	Breezy Point Surf Lifeguard	X		
Cattaraugus County EMS	Cattaraugus County EMS Lifeguard Training Program		X	X

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
Ellis Education Services (Ellis & Associates, Inc.) International Lifeguard Training Program ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR. SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED. VALID WHERE MAXIMUM WATER DEPTH IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO SPECIFIED TRAINING DEPTH.	Lifeguard Training – Pool			X
	Lifeguard Training – Special Facilities			X
	Lifeguard Training – Open Water		X	X
Hamptons Consortium	Hamptons Consortium Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
Hamptons Ocean Lifeguard Academy	Surf Lifeguard, Supervision Level 1	X		
Incorporated Village of East Hampton	Surf Lifeguard	X		
Incorporated Village of Saltaire	Ocean Lifeguard Certificate	X		
	Bay Front Lifeguard Certificate		X	
LIFEGUARD-PRO ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR.	LIFEGUARD-SWIMMING POOL			X
	LIFEGUARD-DEEP POOL			X
	LIFEGUARD-WATER PARK			X
	LIFEGUARD-WATERFRONT		X	X
	LIFEGUARD-YOUTH CAMP		X	X
Lifesaving Society (Royal Life Saving Society, Canada) ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 2 YEARS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. *CERTIFICATION TITLES THAT INCLUDE "RECERT" ARE ACCEPTABLE.	National Lifeguard – Pool*			X
	National Lifeguard – Waterfront*		X	
	National Lifeguard – Surf*	X		
	National Lifeguard – Waterpark*			X
Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums	"Day Camp Only"			X
	Grade 1A			X
	Grade 1B			X
	Grade II		X	X
	Grade III	X	X	X
New York City Department of Parks	Municipal Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Municipal Lifeguard "pool only"			X
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	New York State Lifeguard		X	X
Starfish Aquatics Institute, Inc. CERTIFICATION IS VALID FOR 1 YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE AND CERTIFICATE MUST SPECIFY "MEETS NY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGULATIONS." SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED. *IN "SPECIALTY MODULE TRAINING" SECTION OF CERTIFICATION CARD, "WATERFRONT" MUST <u>NOT</u> BE CROSSED OUT.	STARGUARD Lifeguard Certification Program Lifeguard Certification Card			X
	StarGuard Best Practices for Lifeguards with Waterfront Specialty Module Training*		X	X
StarGuard Elite • COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE RECORD SERVES AS PROOF OF CERTIFICATION. • CERTIFICATION IS VALID FOR 1 YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. • CERTIFICATE MUST SPECIFY "MEETS NY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGULATIONS." • SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED. • VALID AT FACILITIES EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN THE WATER COMPETENCY DEPTH SPECIFIED ON THE CERTIFICATION.	SGE Lifeguard			X
	SGE Lifeguard with Open Water Module (Under additional options, "Open Water" must be checked.)		X	X

ACCEPTED COURSES		SUPERVISION LEVEL <i>Marked boxes indicate acceptability</i>		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	Level I Surf	Level II b Pool & Beach	Level II a Pool Only
Suffolk County Department of Parks	Ocean Lifeguard Training	X		
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	
Town of Babylon	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	X
Town of Brookhaven	Ocean Theory Course	X	X	X
Town of East Hampton	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
Town of Islip	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
Town of Southampton	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard		X	X
Village of Ocean Beach	Ocean Beach Atlantic Ocean Lifeguard Course	X	X	X
YMCA	YMCA Lifeguard v6 Certification		X	X

SHALLOW WATER CERTIFICATIONS (Acceptable for Supervision Level IIa at shallow pools as indicated below)		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	VALID AT POOLS WITH MAXIMUM WATER DEPTH:
American Red Cross (ARC) CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 2 YEARS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED IN FIRST YEAR OF CERTIFICATION. CERTIFICATION TITLES THAT INCLUDE "REVIEW" ARE ACCEPTABLE.	Shallow Water Lifeguarding (up to 5 ft)/First Aid/CPR/AED	5 feet or less
	Shallow Water Lifeguarding (up to 6 ft)/First Aid/CPR/AED	6 feet or less
	Shallow Water Lifeguarding (up to 7 ft)/First Aid/CPR/AED	7 feet or less
	Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED	3 feet or less
American Lifeguard Association (ALA) CERTIFICATE MUST STATE THE WORDS "INSTRUCTOR LED".	Shallow Water Lifeguarding - Instructor Led	4 feet or less
American Aquatics and Safety Training *CERTIFICATIONS CONTAINING "RE-CERTIFICATION" IN THE TITLE ARE ALSO VALID.	Shallow Pool Lifeguard, CPR/AED, First Aid*	5 feet or less
Ellis Education Services (Ellis & Associates, Inc.) International Lifeguard Training Program CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR. SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED.	Lifeguard Training – Shallow	5 feet or less
LIFEGUARD-PRO CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR.	LIFEGUARD-SHALLOW POOL	5 feet or less