

AQUATIC CERTIFICATIONS for NYS Bathing Facilities

Fact Sheet – April 2021

(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 |
| Ellis & Associates Inc. International Lifeguard Training Program SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CERTIFICATION. | Pool Lifeguard Training | | | X |
| | Special Facilities Lifeguard Training | | | X |
| | Special Facilities Lifeguard Training with Open Water Training | | 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 International Lifeguard Training Program ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR. SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED. | 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 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 |
| 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 |
| Royal Life Saving Society, Canada ALL CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 2 YEARS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. | National Lifeguard Service (NLS) Pool | | | X |
| | National Lifeguard Service (NLS) Waterfront | | X | |
| | National Lifeguard Service (NLS) Surf | X | | |
| | National Lifeguard Service (NLS) Waterpark | | | 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 • SGE LIFEGUARD 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 |
| Suffolk County Department of Parks | Ocean Lifeguard Training | X | | |
| | Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course | | X | |

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| 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 CERTIFICATION (Acceptable for Supervision Level IIa at shallow pools as indicated below) | | |
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| 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 & Associates Inc. International Lifeguard Training Program SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CERTIFICATION. | Shallow Water Lifeguard | 5 feet or less |
| Ellis Education Services 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 |