

# AQUATIC CERTIFICATIONS for NYS Bathing Facilities

## Fact Sheet – April 2021

(Go to [www.health.ny.gov](http://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
<b>American Red Cross (ARC)</b> 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
<b>American Lifeguard Association (ALA)</b> CERTIFICATE MUST STATE THE WORDS "INSTRUCTOR LED".	Professional Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterpark Lifeguarding - Instructor Led			X
	Waterfront Lifeguarding - Instructor Led		X	X
<b>American Aquatics &amp; Safety Training</b>  *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
<b>Boy Scouts of America (BSA)</b> 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
<b>Breezy Point Cooperative, Inc.</b>	Breezy Point Surf Lifeguard	X		
<b>Cattaraugus County EMS</b>	Cattaraugus County EMS Lifeguard Training Program		X	X
<b>Ellis &amp; Associates Inc.</b>  <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b> 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
<b>Ellis Education Services</b> <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b> 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
<b>Hamptons Consortium</b>	Hamptons Consortium Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
<b>Hamptons Ocean Lifeguard Academy</b>	Surf Lifeguard, Supervision Level 1	X		
<b>Incorporated Village of Saltaire</b>	Ocean Lifeguard Certificate	X		
	Bay Front Lifeguard Certificate		X	
<b>LIFEGUARD-PRO</b> 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
<b>Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums</b>	“Day Camp Only”			X
	Grade 1A			X
	Grade 1B			X
	Grade II		X	X
	Grade III	X	X	X
<b>New York City Department of Parks</b>	Municipal Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Municipal Lifeguard “pool only”			X
<b>New York State Department of Environmental Conservation</b>	New York State Lifeguard		X	X
<b>Royal Life Saving Society, Canada</b> 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
<b>Starfish Aquatics Institute, Inc.</b> 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
<b>StarGuard Elite</b> • 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
<b>Suffolk County Department of Parks</b>	Ocean Lifeguard Training	X		
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	

<b>Town of Babylon</b>	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard Training Course		X	X
<b>Town of Brookhaven</b>	Ocean Theory Course	X	X	X
<b>Town of East Hampton</b>	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
<b>Town of Islip</b>	Surf Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Pool and Beach Lifeguard		X	X
<b>Town of Southampton</b>	Ocean Lifeguard	X	X	X
	Stillwater Lifeguard		X	X
<b>Village of Ocean Beach</b>	Ocean Beach Atlantic Ocean Lifeguard Course	X	X	X
<b>YMCA</b>	YMCA Lifeguard v6 Certification		X	X

<b>SHALLOW WATER CERTIFICATION</b> (Acceptable for Supervision Level IIa at shallow pools as indicated below)		
PROVIDER	CERTIFICATION TITLE	VALID AT POOLS WITH MAXIMUM WATER DEPTH:
<b>American Red Cross (ARC)</b> 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
<b>American Lifeguard Association (ALA)</b> CERTIFICATE MUST STATE THE WORDS "INSTRUCTOR LED".	Shallow Water Lifeguarding - Instructor Led	4 feet or less
<b>American Aquatics and Safety Training</b> *CERTIFICATIONS CONTAINING "RE-CERTIFICATION" IN THE TITLE ARE ALSO VALID.	Shallow Pool Lifeguard, CPR/AED, First Aid*	5 feet or less
<b>Ellis &amp; Associates Inc.</b> <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b> SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CERTIFICATION.	Shallow Water Lifeguard	5 feet or less
<b>Ellis Education Services</b> <b>International Lifeguard Training Program</b> CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR. SEPARATE CERTIFICATE FOR CPR IS NOT REQUIRED.	Lifeguard Training – Shallow	5 feet or less
<b>LIFEGUARD-PRO</b> CERTIFICATIONS ARE VALID FOR 1 YEAR.	LIFEGUARD-SHALLOW POOL	5 feet or less