

CAMP AQUATICS DIRECTOR

for NYS Children's Camp Bathing Facilities

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

A camp aquatics director must oversee all swimming activities that occur at swimming pools and bathing beaches operated as part of a children's camp. This person shall supervise lifeguards and other required staff during swimming activities and implement the camp safety plan. The camp aquatics director must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have a minimum of:
 - One season of previous experience as a camp aquatics director at a New York State children's camp; or
 - Two seasons of previous experience consisting of at least 12 weeks as a children's camp lifeguard which had more than one lifeguard supervising it at a time; or
 - 18 weeks of previous experience as a lifeguard at a swimming pool or bathing beach, which had more than one lifeguard supervising it at a time.
- Hold an accepted and current CPR certificate as listed on the Fact Sheet "[CPR Certification for NYS Children's Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities.](#)"
- Annually review and document the review of the camp's safety plan for swimming.
- Possess current certification in a training course for lifeguard supervision and management as described below:

Acceptable Lifeguard Supervision and Management Courses (Certifications are valid for the time period specified by the provider but may not exceed three years from the date of course completion.)	
Provider	Certification Title
American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguard Management (LGM) certifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– LGM is only offered online. In-person testing is required and obtained through ARC Lifeguarding Instructors that are ARC Authorized Providers.– Certification expiration date is based on the LGM certificate, not the in-person testing certificate date. Certifications without an expiration date are not valid. Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer or Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 certifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Certificates including a combination of Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24 and Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 are acceptable.– Certificates are valid for the time period specified in parentheses after the certification title.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Lifeguard Management – certifications must be accompanied by a separate certification indicating in-person testing session.➤ Lifeguarding Instructor➤ Waterfront Lifeguarding Instructor➤ Lifeguard Instructor Trainer➤ Lifeguarding Instructor r.24➤ Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24
American Aquatics Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Aquatic Supervisor (Lifeguard Management, Pool Activity Leader)
Boy Scouts of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Aquatics Instructor, BSA
YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Lifeguard Supervisor

An Aquatics Director may not perform lifeguard duties unless currently certified as a qualified [lifeguard](#) or assess swimming ability unless currently certified as a [progressive swimming instructor](#) (see corresponding Fact Sheets available at health.ny.gov or from your local health department).

Camp Trip Swimming Program Safety Certifications for NYS Children’s Camps

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

When swimming is conducted during a camp trip to an aquatics facility that is supervised by qualified lifeguard(s), the camp must supply one additional lifeguard or a staff member possessing training in Children’s Camp Swimming Program Safety for each 75 campers at the swimming activity (see [Aquatic Certifications Fact Sheet](#) for a list of qualified lifeguard certifications). A camp supplied lifeguard or staff trained in swimming safety is not required for aquatic amusement park activities that allow only one or two patrons in the water at a time and the activity water depth does not exceed chest deep for non-swimmers.

The following courses have been accepted by the Department as meeting or exceeding course standards for training in Children’s Camp Swimming Program Safety specified in [Section 7-2.11\(a\)\(4\)\(iv\)\(a\)](#) of the State Sanitary Code:

Provider	Certification Title*
<p>American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguard Management (LGM) certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LGM is only offered online. In-person testing is required and obtained through ARC Lifeguarding Instructors that are ARC Authorized Providers. – Certification expiration date is based on the LGM certificate, not the in-person testing certificate date. Certifications without an expiration date are not valid. <p>Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer or Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Certificates including a combination of Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24 and Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 are acceptable. – Certificates are valid for the time period specified in parentheses after the certification title. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lifeguard Management – Certifications must be accompanied by a separate certification indicating in-person testing session. ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor ➤ Waterfront Lifeguarding Instructor ➤ Lifeguard Instructor Trainer ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24
American Red Cross on Long Island	➤ Pool Activity Leader
American Aquatics Safety Training	➤ Aquatic Supervisor (Lifeguard Management, Pool Activity Leader)
Boy Scouts of America	➤ Aquatics Supervision
YMCA	➤ Lifeguard Supervisor

* Certifications are valid for the time period specified by the certifying agency but may not exceed a consecutive three-year period from course completion.

CPR CERTIFICATION

(including Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training)
for NYS Children's Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

The New York State Sanitary Code (SSC) requires certain staff to possess a valid two-rescuer CPR certification in a course accepted by the Department as providing an adequate level of training and certification in the use of an AED as follows:

- **Children’s Camps (Subpart 7-2 of the SSC)** - CPR certification is required for the health director and other staff specified in sections 7-2.8 and 7-2.11(a)(5), aquatics director, lifeguards, and certain trip and activity leaders¹.
- **Swimming Pools and Bathing Beaches (Part 6 of the SSC)** - CPR certification is required for all lifeguards (Supervision Levels I, IIa, IIb).
- **Children’s Camps and Ocean Surf Beaches** – AED certification is required for at least one staff at children's camps and at least one lifeguard at ocean surf beaches.

CPR certifications are valid for one year from the date of certification, regardless of expiration date on card.

For AED certification only, certifications are valid for two years from the date of course completion.

Accepted Courses	
<i>Lifeguard Certifications listed on the Aquatic Certifications Fact Sheet with the notation “Separate certificate for CPR is not required in the first year of certification” are also acceptable CPR certifications for the first year of the lifeguard certification.</i>	
Provider	Certification Title
American Heart Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BLS Instructor ➤ BLS Provider (Course title - Basic Life Support) – Certification must be accompanied by a separate certification verifying completion of an in-person skills assessment.
American Lifeguard Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Instructor Led
American Aquatics and Safety Training <small>*Certifications containing “Recertification” in the title are also valid</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR/AED for BLS Providers* ➤ CPR/AED for the Professionals* ➤ CPR/AED for Lifeguards* ➤ CPR/AED, Advanced First Aid*
American Red Cross <small>*Any certification title containing the following wording is acceptable, including “Review” or “Challenge”:</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers”; or • “Basic Life Support” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers* ➤ Basic Life Support*
Ellis & Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health Care Provider BLS (CPR & AED)
Emergency Care and Safety Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health Care Provider CPR & AED
Health & Safety Institute (HSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Basic Life Support – Certification must include the statement “In-Person Skill Practice and Evaluation”
Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BLS HCP Heartsaver (C) Provider ➤ BLS Provider ➤ Healthcare professional/AED (C) 5H
National Safety Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Basic Life Support for Healthcare & Professional Rescuers
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Municipal CPR: Basic Life Support
Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR PLUS
St. John Ambulance Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR Level C & AED

¹ A trip leader of a camp trip that includes an activity where emergency medical care is not readily available or an activity such as wilderness hiking, rock climbing, camping, horseback riding, bicycling, swimming and/or boating shall possess or be accompanied by staff who possess certification in a course listed on this Fact Sheet. An activity leader of an activity on the camp property where other CPR certified staff is not readily available shall possess or be accompanied by staff who possess certification in a course listed on this Fact Sheet.

FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS

for NYS Children’s Camp Staff

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

[Subpart 7-2](#) of the State Sanitary Code requires the health director, other staff specified in section 7-2.8, and certain camp trip and activity leaders¹ to possess valid certification in first aid. The courses listed below have been accepted by the Department as being equivalent to or exceeding first aid course standards specified in Section 7-2.2(m). Some medical personnel may possess training and experience that is equivalent to or exceeds this certification requirement. Documentation demonstrating training should be submitted to the local permit-issuing official for evaluation.

Acceptable CPR certifications for camp staff are listed on the Fact Sheet [CPR Certification for NYS Children’s Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities](#).

Accepted Courses	
<i>First Aid certifications are valid for the time period specified by the provider but may not exceed three years from the date of course completion.</i>	
Provider	Certification Title
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emergency Medical Response – Title may include “Review” or “Challenge.” ➤ Responding to Emergencies – Any certification title containing the wording “Responding to Emergencies” is acceptable, including “Review” or “Challenge.” ➤ Wilderness and Remote First Aid
American Safety & Health Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advanced First Aid – Certification must be accompanied by a Recognition of Participation in the ASHI training program approved by the New York State Department of Health. ➤ Wilderness First Aid
Canadian Red Cross Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Standard First Aid & CPR
Emergency Care and Safety Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advanced First Aid ➤ Emergency Medical Responder ➤ Wilderness First Aid BSA (16 hours) (course title – Boy Scouts of America Wilderness First Aid) ➤ Wilderness First Aid Basic ➤ Wilderness First Aid Standard ➤ Wilderness First Aid Advanced Level
National Association for Search and Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wilderness First Aid
National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emergency Medical Responder ➤ Emergency Medical Technician ➤ Advanced Emergency Medical Technician ➤ Paramedic
National Safety Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emergency Medical Response ➤ Advanced First Aid (course title – Advanced First Aid, CPR & AED)
National Ski Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outdoor Emergency Care Technician
New York State Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Certified First Responder ➤ EMT ➤ Advanced EMT ➤ EMT - Critical Care ➤ Paramedic

Accepted Courses

First Aid certifications are valid for the time period specified by the provider but may not exceed three years from the date of course completion.

Provider	Certification Title
NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute <i>(Formerly Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wilderness Advanced First Aid ➤ Wilderness First Responder ➤ Wilderness EMT
St. John Ambulance Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Medical First Responder ➤ Emergency Medical Responder ➤ Standard First Aid
SOLO Wilderness Emergency Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wilderness First Aid ➤ Wilderness First Responder ➤ Wilderness EMT
Wilderness Medical Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wilderness Advanced First Aid ➤ Wilderness First Responder ➤ Wilderness EMT ➤ Wilderness First Aid

¹A trip leader of a camp trip that includes an activity where emergency medical care is not readily available or an activity such as wilderness hiking, rock climbing, camping, horseback riding, bicycling, swimming and/or boating shall possess or be accompanied by staff who possess certifications in one of the above acceptable courses; for camp trip swimming activities where emergency medical care is readily available, the certifications listed below may be substituted.

An activity leader of an activity on the camp property where other staff certified in first aid in accordance with Section 7-2.8 of Subpart 7-2 is not readily available, shall possess or be accompanied by staff who possess certifications in one of the above acceptable courses.

²Most states utilize the National curriculum for their EMT certifications. Individuals that can provide proof that their state utilizes the National curriculum may be accepted. EMT certifications from states that do not utilize the National curriculum may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

At a SUMMER DAY CAMP, when the camp's program does not include equestrian, bicycling, challenge course, rock climbing, boating, riflery, archery, motorized recreational vehicles, wilderness hiking/activities, and similar activities; and emergency medical care is available within 10 minutes, the following certifications may be substituted for the above courses.

These certifications may not satisfy the requirement for camp CPR certified staff. Acceptable certifications for CPR are listed on the Fact Sheet [CPR Certification for NYS Children's Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities](#).

Provider	Certification Title
American Heart Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heartsaver First Aid – Optional Module “Exam” must not be marked out. ➤ Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED – Optional Module “Exam” must not be marked out. ➤ Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid CPR AED – Optional Modules “Pediatric First Aid” and “Exam” must not be marked out.
American Lifeguard Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community First Aid Instructor Led – Certificate must include words “Instructor Led.”
American Aquatics & Safety Training Certification titles that include “Recertification” are acceptable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advanced First Aid ➤ CPR/AED, Advanced First Aid
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – Title may include “Review” or “Challenge” ➤ First Aid/CPR/AED – Title may include “Review” or “Challenge” ➤ CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers with First Aid – Title may include “Review” or “Challenge” ➤ Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED – Title may include “Review”

At a SUMMER DAY CAMP, when the camp’s program does not include equestrian, bicycling, challenge course, rock climbing, boating, riflery, archery, motorized recreational vehicles, wilderness hiking/activities, and similar activities; and emergency medical care is available within 10 minutes, the following certifications may be substituted for the above courses.

These certifications may not satisfy the requirement for camp CPR certified staff. Acceptable certifications for CPR are listed on the Fact Sheet [CPR Certification for NYS Children’s Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities](#).

Provider	Certification Title
Ellis and Associates	➤ Standard First Aid
Emergency Care and Safety Institute	➤ First Aid for NY Day Camps, Basic Level
Health & Safety Institute (HSI) Certification title may include “CPR AED”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult First Aid ➤ Pediatric First Aid
National Safety Council	➤ First Aid (course title – First Aid OR First Aid, CPR & AED)

Learn-to-Swim Programs for NYS Children's Camps

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

[Subpart 7-2](#) of the State Sanitary Code allows non-swimmers to enter water that is chest deep or greater when participating in a learn-to-swim program that has been determined to use a supervision protocol which protects campers from injury or drowning. The following programs have been determined to be acceptable:

Acceptable Programs*
American Red Cross
Boy Scouts of America
Orchard Park Recreation
PADI
Starfish Aquatics
YMCA

- Instructors must possess current certification as a [progressive swimming instructor](#) (PSI) in the program being utilized to teach swimming.
- Qualified lifeguards must supervise learn-to-swim programs. A PSI may not perform lifeguard duties unless currently certified as a qualified lifeguard (see "[Aquatic Certifications](#)" fact sheet) and he/she is not concurrently performing teaching duties.
- A Buddy System and Board System (or equivalent) of supervising and checking bathers must be implemented during all swimming activities including learn-to-swim programs.

* Children's camps may utilize learn-to-swim programs that are not listed above to teach swimming at camp; however, non-swimmers must be restricted to water that is less than chest deep at all times.

**Level III and IV Aquatic Supervision Staff
CPR CERTIFICATIONS
For NYS Bathing Facilities**

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

Level III and IV Aquatic Supervisory Staff are required to possess an American Red Cross (ARC) CPR or equivalent (except when staff is employed at bathing facilities that are part of a temporary residence or campground). As a result of changes in ARC’s curriculum, the code standard “Community CPR” is no longer taught. Acceptable certification equivalents are listed below.

CPR certifications are valid for 1 year from the date of certification, regardless of the expiration date shown on the card.

Accepted Courses	
CPR certifications listed on the Fact Sheet “ CPR Certification for NYS Children’s Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities ” exceed the requirements for Level III and IV CPR courses and are acceptable.	
Provider	Certification Title
American Heart Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heartsaver CPR AED* ➤ Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED* <p>*Optional modules “Child CPR AED,” “Infant CPR,” and “Exam” must not be marked out, and certification must be accompanied by a separate certification verifying completion of an in-person skills assessment.</p>
American Red Cross Certification title may include “Review” or “Challenge”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult CPR/AED with Pediatric CPR* ➤ Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED* - Any certification title containing the wording “Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED” is acceptable. <p>*Certification must be accompanied by a separate certification verifying completion of an in-person skills session.</p>
Emergency Care and Safety Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult, Child, Infant CPR ➤ Adult, Child, Infant CPR/AED
Health & Safety Institute (HSI) Certification title may include “Adult First Aid” or “Pediatric First Aid”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR AED* ➤ Pediatric CPR AED* <p>*Certification must only have “ADULT/CHILD/INFANT” box checked and must include the statement “In-Person Skill Practice and Evaluation.”</p>

NYS Bathing Facilities Supervision Level III Aquatic Staff Certification Required for Instructional Activities

(Not applicable to Children’s Camps)

Fact Sheet – February 2025

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

The New York State Sanitary Code (SSC) requires Supervision Level III staff to possess aquatic injury prevention and emergency response certification when assisting required lifeguards (Supervision Level IIa) during instructional activities, in accordance with Section 6-1.23(a)(6) of [Subpart 6-1](#) of the SSC. Instructional activities include, but are not limited to, learn-to-swim programs, physical education classes and swim team practices. One Supervision Level III staff must be provided for each required lifeguard engaged in instructional activities.

Accepted Courses	
(Certifications are valid for the time period specified by the provider but may not exceed three years from the date of course completion.)	
Provider	Certification Title
<p>American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguarding Management (LGM) certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lifeguard Management (LGM) is only offered online. In-person testing is required and obtained through ARC Lifeguarding Instructors that are ARC Authorized Providers. – Certification expiration date is based on the LGM certificate, not the in-person testing certificate date. Certifications without an expiration date are not valid. <p>Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer or Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Certificates including a combination of Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24 and Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 are acceptable. – Certificates are valid for the time period specified in parentheses after the certification title. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lifeguard Management – Certifications must be accompanied by a separate certification indicating in-person testing session. ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor ➤ Lifeguard Instructor Trainer ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor r.24 ➤ Lifeguarding Instructor Trainer r.24
American Aquatics Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquatic Supervisor (Lifeguard Management, Pool Activity Leader)
East Aurora Union Free School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ East Aurora Union Free School District Level Three Aquatic Supervisor Course
Buffalo Public Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Second Set of Eyes

In addition to the training, Level III Aquatic Supervisory staff must:

- Be a minimum of 18 years;
- Possess a current [American Red Cross Community CPR or equivalent certification](#), not to exceed one year;
- Possess competencies as specified in Section 6-1.31(c)(1)(iii) of the SSC.