



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

Dear 2020 Lifeguard Candidate:

Our lifeguards are a vital asset to the NYS Parks system. They protect more than 25 million swimmers and perform thousands of rescues annually. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the returning lifeguards for the excellent work performed in the past as well as welcome and encourage new candidates who are striving to join our team.

All seasonal lifeguard candidates must qualify annually. The lifeguard qualifying process is administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The DEC and OPRHP are two separate State agencies working together to provide upstate candidates additional qualifying opportunities throughout New York State. Please be aware that these results are not applicable in Long Island. OPRHP conducts a separate surf lifeguard program for our Long Island facilities. Likewise, the Long Island process does not qualify candidates for employment in our other Regions. Candidates seeking employment as a lifeguard for OPRHP (other than Long Island) must meet the standards outlined in the 2020 OPRHP Lifeguard Information packet.

Qualifying dates have closed out in the past and candidates are strongly encouraged to pre-register. Candidates should contact the OPRHP regional offices (list attached) at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date, or with DEC no later than one week prior by contacting the DEC central office. DEC will accept only 5 OPRHP registrants per location/date. If you decide NOT to attend we ask that you notify the host region as soon as possible to allow another person the opportunity to take your place. We reserve the right to cancel and will attempt to notify candidates in a timely manner.

Reminders:

- All candidates are required to show identification prior to participating in the qualifying process. Acceptable forms of identification include but are not limited to: State issued driver license, non-driver ID, or Passport. A photo ID without a date of birth may be used provided a birth certificate is also presented.
- The qualifying process consists of two sections. Candidates must pass both sections to be qualified.
- **BRING YOUR POCKET MASK.** The use of a pocket mask is required for the CPR section.
- Each cycle of compressions for CPR must be completed within 14-19 secs.
- Candidates will be provided a second opportunity to complete the CPR section at each location. This second opportunity will be offered after the conclusion of the entire qualifying process (CPR and Water).
- The 2 arm tow will be the only acceptable towing technique for the rescue event.
- We WILL NOT offer a second attempt of the water section on the same day at OPRHP scheduled sites.
- **I urge you to review the "2020 Lifeguard Information" and "2020 Lifeguard Qualifications".** The American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguard Course is valid for 2 years. We require certification to the Waterfront level (base course and a module) in all Regions with the exception of New York City, as the majority of our facilities are beaches. Also, **CPR certification is only recognized for a period of 1 year for lifeguards regardless of the expiration date indicated on your card (As per NYS Department of Health).** Please be sure you get the appropriate certification (CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Healthcare Provider or equivalent). Candidates hired at facilities with waterslides will need to be certified to the Water Park level or successfully complete an in-house training program. Please contact your regional representative or the Water Safety Office if you have any questions.
- Please note: As per the Agency standard lifeguard candidates must meet the medical standards which includes the minimum vision requirements.

Sincerely,

Richard Alden, Director of Water Safety
Richard.Alden@parks.ny.gov

NYS Parks Lifeguard Employment – Quick Reference

<https://parks.ny.gov/employment/lifeguards/default.aspx>

Thank you for your interest in lifeguard employment opportunities with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation!

To be eligible for employment as a lifeguard with the Agency, *all* candidates must (annually) take and pass a state administered qualifying procedure.

Q: What is a qualifying procedure and how much does it cost?

A: The qualifier consists of two parts; a CPR component and a water skills evaluation. A description of the qualifying procedure is available on the Web Page under the [Qualifying Information](#) Tab. Each OPRHP qualifying procedure allows candidates one attempt at the water skills evaluation and two attempts for the CPR portion. Both sections must be passed to be eligible for employment. Should a candidate not pass the water skills and/or CPR section(s) at a single location they will need to register/attend a separate qualifier. Candidates will only be required to retake the section(s) in which they were unsuccessful. Candidates are permitted multiple attempts to qualify. There is no charge to take the qualifier.

Q: I am not currently certified as a lifeguard but will be completing a lifeguard certification course before the summer. Am I able to start the application/qualification process prior to having the certifications?

A: Yes. You do not need current lifeguard certification to participate in the qualifying procedure or to submit your application.

Q: I have current lifeguard certification; do I still need to take the qualifier?

A: Yes. The qualifying procedure is a pre-requisite for NYS Parks lifeguard employment. The qualifying procedure and lifeguard certification are two different things; both are required for lifeguard employment eligibility.

Q: Where are the qualifiers held and how do I register?

A: Qualifying procedures are offered statewide. For a current listing of locations and dates, please visit our website and click on the [Qualifying Dates](#) Tab (<https://parks.ny.gov/employment/lifeguards/default.aspx>). Candidates may register by calling or emailing the Regional Contact listed on the [Qualification Information](#) Tab. Candidates may choose to attend a qualifier administered by either OPRHP or the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation). Candidates will need to be prepared to be in the water and will also need to bring a CPR resuscitation mask.

Q: I have successfully completed the NYS Parks qualifying procedure and have completed the employment application (<https://parks.ny.gov/employment/documents/FillableUpdatedParksEmployeeApplicationS1000Part1.pdf>), what's next?

A: Your application should be submitted to the Park at which you are interested in seeking employment. Park management will schedule and conduct interviews with interested candidates. Once a conditional offer of employment has been extended candidates will be required to submit a Lifeguard Medical Form completed by your physician as well as current certifications.

Should you need more information or require further assistance, reach out to any of the contacts listed on the web page for assistance.