

LIFEGUARD/ WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR (WSI)

DEFINITION

Provides basic instruction in swimming skills for youth ages six months and up and performs a variety of duties to insure the safety of participants in the Town's swim program.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Lifeguard/Water Safety Instructor classification is responsible for conducting classes on swimming skills as well as pool and water safety. This class differs from the Pool Manager class in that the latter is responsible for the overall operation of the Town's annual swim program including recreational swimming, swimming instruction, and pool maintenance. The Lifeguard/Water Safety Instructor differs from the Lifeguard classification in that the Lifeguard is responsible for the safety of swimmers and is not involved in swim instruction.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED/EXERCISED

Supervision is provided by the Pool Manager. Supervisory responsibilities entail the supervision of swim aides and supervision of pool patrons as they participate in the Town's swimming programs.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Provides basic instruction in swimming skills for youth ages six months and up; supervises swim aides; supervises aquatic activities to prevent accidents and injuries; cautions swimmers regarding unsafe areas and activities; enforces pool rules; rescues swimmers in danger; performs first aid and CPR; maintains good public relations; and participates in staff training.

OTHER DUTIES

Performs pool and facility maintenance as necessary and other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Experience/Education/Training

Sufficient experience, education, and training to effectively instruct children and young people in swimming skills. A typical way of obtaining the required qualifications is to possess some water safety or lifeguarding experience and the training required to obtain certificates necessary for Water Safety Instruction.

Knowledge/Ability

General knowledge of swimming instruction procedures; principles and techniques of water safety; lifeguard procedures; emergency procedures; first aid and CPR. Ability to communicate effectively and to teach Red Cross classes; to teach swimming skills to children and youth; ability to perform emergency and lifesaving procedures; supervise groups of swimmers; remain calm in emergency situations; work with people of all ages and varying aquatic skills; follow oral and written instructions; maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities; and establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Working Conditions

Position requires sitting, standing, walking on level and slippery surfaces, climbing, reaching, twisting, turning, kneeling, bending, stooping, squatting, and crouching in the performance of daily activities. The position also requires near, far, and color vision while performing swim instruction and lifeguard activities. Additionally, the position requires grasping, repetitive hand movement and fine coordination when teaching classes. The need to move and push large cement chairs and special events boxes and the need to lift and carry students weighing 40 pounds or over also is required. The nature of the work requires the incumbent to work outdoors in all weather conditions including wet, hot and cold; climb ladders; walk on scaffolds; work in confined spaces and unusual heights. The incumbent may use pool chemicals and solvents exposing the employee to fumes, dust and air contaminants which may cause eye and skin irritation. The incumbent also must be available to provide life saving techniques, work irregular or extended hours, work in fatiguing conditions and with constant interruptions, and, at times, work with impatient and irritated patrons.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Certificates

Possession of Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguard Training, First Aid for Safety Personnel (Title 22) [a.k.a. EMSA] and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for the Professional Rescuer certificates are required at date of appointment.

Age

Must be at least 17 years old at date of appointment.

May require evidence of a negative tuberculin test taken within the past two years.