



**RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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**Division of Parks & Recreation**  
1100 Tower Hill Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
[www.riparks.com](http://www.riparks.com)

Office 401-667-6200  
Fax 401-667-3970  
Website

January 8, 2020

**LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION INFORMATION**

**2020 – 2021**

Individuals interested in working as a lifeguard in the State of Rhode Island must become certified by the RI Division of Parks and Recreation as either a Surf or Non-Surf lifeguard to work at a beach or if required by their facility operator, as a Pool lifeguard to work at a pool.

- Surf Certified lifeguards can work at any type of swimming facility in the State
- Non-Surf Certified lifeguards can work at non-surf (freshwater or bayside) beaches and pools
- Pool Certified lifeguards can only work at swimming pools.

**NOTE:** Full State lifeguard certification cards expire on September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

**A. LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. All candidates must be at least fifteen (15) years of age and must present a photo ID with verification of date of birth each time they apply for certification.
2. Applicants under the age of eighteen (18) **MUST** be accompanied by a PARENT or GUARDIAN to sign the waiver form OR must obtain a waiver from the Division of Parks and Recreation ahead of time to be signed and notarized, in order to take the test.
3. All candidates must have successfully completed courses and hold valid cards in Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and CPR which includes adults, infants, and children. These cards must not be due to expire within 30 days of the test.
  - a. The following CPR cards will be accepted:
    - i. “CPR for the Professional Rescuer” or “CPR for Lifeguards” from the American Red Cross. “BLS for the Healthcare Provider” from

the Heart Association are the recommended levels of CPR training. The “Heartsaver CPR for all Ages” from the Heart Association will also be accepted.

- ii. An appropriate Adult, Infant and Child CPR card from the National Safety Council, American Safety & Health Institute, or other accredited organizations.
4. Only original, valid, up to date cards or authorized training certificates from accredited organizations such as the American Red Cross, YMCA, National Safety Council, American Heart Association are accepted. Individuals should not consider any on-line courses without checking with the Division of Parks and Recreation prior to registration to verify if any such courses would be accepted for certification. No photo copies, altered, defaced, or damaged cards will be honored. Also, no letters from instructors, rosters, or other documents will be accepted in lieu of original training cards or authorized training certificates from accredited organizations. **CANDIDATES SHOULD CONTACT THE DIVISION OR PARKS AND RECREATION WITH ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THEIR TRAINING CARDS OR CERTIFICATES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE TEST DATES.**
  5. No candidate will be certified if any of their training cards or certificates are due to expire within thirty (30) days. They will not be certified until they have renewed and replaced the training card which is expiring.
  6. An EMT license will be honored for the First Aid requirement, but an EMT must still present separate cards in Lifeguard Training and appropriate CPR.
  7. Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and CPR courses are offered throughout the year by accredited agencies. Candidates should check with these agencies for dates and times for these courses. All courses must be completed prior to taking the Certification test.
  8. There is a \$10.00 fee for the State Certification Card which must be paid prior to the card being issued.

## **B. SURF AND NON-SURF CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION**

1. No appointment is necessary; however, pre-registration is encouraged to reduce wait times for the candidate.
2. Required training cards (CPR, First Aid, Lifeguard Training) or equivalent must be presented at the examination along with a valid photo ID and verification of date of birth. Candidates under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by a **PARENT** or **GUARDIAN** to sign the waiver form **OR** must obtain a waiver from the Division of

Parks and Recreation ahead of time to be signed and notarized, in order to take the test.

3. **Conditional Surf Test** (valid until August 7, 2020)

Dates: May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Scarborough North State Beach

TEST CONSISTS OF:

**Rescue**

Torp and Reel save, 3-person team.

**Board**

Board rescue 100 yards out, flip board, secure victim on board, paddle victim to shore.

4. **Conditional Non-Surf Test** (valid until August 14, 2020)

Dates: May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Burlingame State Park (Prosser Grove Picnic Area)

TEST CONSISTS OF:

**Rescues**

One torpedo rescue, 25 yards out, tow victim to shore.

One rescue tube rescue, 25 yards out, front approach, securely wrap the tube around the victim and tow victim to shore.

**Board**

Board rescue 100 yards out, flip board, secure victim on board, paddle victim to shore.

**NOTE - All conditionally certified Lifeguards must return to take and pass a full test in August. Failure to take and pass a full test precludes candidates from any future conditional tests.**

**C. FULL SURF AND NON-SURF CERTIFICAIONS**

1. **SURF TEST** (cards valid until September 30, 2021)

Dates: August 3<sup>rd</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Location: Scarborough North State Beach

**TEST CONSISTS OF:**

**Endurance:** Swim 440 yards in 10 minutes or less using only forward-facing strokes.

**Rescue:** Torp and reel save, 3-person team.

**Board:** Board rescue 100 yards out, flip board, secure victim on board, paddle victim to shore

2. **NON-SURF TEST** (cards valid until September 30, 2021)

Dates: August 11<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Burlingame State Park (Prosser Grove Picnic Area)

**TEST CONSISTS OF:**

**Endurance:**

Swim 440 yards in 10 minutes or less using only forward-facing strokes.

**Rescue:**

One torpedo rescue, 25 yards out, tow victim to shore

One rescue tube rescue, 25 yards out, front approach, securely wrap the tube around the victim and tow to shore

**Board:**

Board rescue 100 yards out, flip board, secure victim on board, paddle victim to shore

**NOTE:**

**Candidates who fail a full test in August will not be certified and cannot work as a lifeguard or apply to take a conditional lifeguard certification test. They will only be certified when they are able to take and pass a full test.**

**D. INFORMATION ON STATE EMPLOYMENT AS A LIFEGUARD**

1. All Applicants must be at least sixteen (16) years old.
2. All applicants must be properly State certified as either a Surf or Non-Surf lifeguard depending on the location they are applying to work.
3. Applicants for employment MUST apply using the State of Rhode Island online application system.
4. Candidates interested in being considered for a Lifeguard Supervisor (Captain) position must hold active Instructors cards or authorized Instructor Credentials in Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and CPR from an accredited agency.
5. Additional information on Seasonal Employment with DEM and the Division of Parks and Recreation can be obtained by contacting:

DEM – Division of Parks and Recreation  
1100 Tower Hill Road North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Tel: 401-667-6200  
[www.riparks.com](http://www.riparks.com)