

Lifeguard FAQ's

Lifeguarding is a fun and challenging summer job that gives young adults a chance to learn and utilize water safety and first aid skills as well as guest service and leadership skills. Many lifeguards eventually transition into safety and medical professions such as EMTs, firefighters, nurses and other important professions. Others will transition into service and management roles working with hotels, corporations and education/coaching!

What does it take to become a lifeguard?

- An individual must be at least 15 years old and achieve a lifeguard certification through the American Red Cross or equivalent agency.
- The course is approximately 30 hours over several days at a cost of approximately \$350
- The certification will include CPR and first aid and will be accepted at most aquatics facilities in the country.
- Classes are offered at The Jones Center for Families in Springdale 479-750-8090 or at the Walton Life Fitness Center in Bentonville contact Joe Martin lifeguard.redcross@gmail.com

What do I have to be able to do to take the lifeguard class?

There are some basic requirements –

- Candidates must swim 300 yards (12 lengths of a 25 yard pool) using front crawl and breast stroke.
- Candidates must swim 20 yards, surface to a depth of 9 ft, retrieve a 10 lb brick, swim the brick back to the starting point and exit on the side of the pool within 1 minute and 40 seconds.
- Tread water for 2 minutes using only the legs

I am already certified but my certification is expiring soon. Is there a way to easily get recertified?

The Rogers Aquatics Center does offer returning guards and newly employed lifeguards the opportunity to recertify their certification at the aquatics center for a greatly discounted rate. Classes usually coincide with the Junior Lifeguard classes in April/May.

What does a lifeguard position pay?

- Newly certified lifeguards start at \$7.50/hour.
- Experienced guards are eligible for higher wages.
- Guards in good standing from previous seasons are given preference in hiring for the next season and will receive a pay raise each returning season.
- Lead guards receive higher pay and more work hours per week (as well as more responsibility!).

When would I work?

- Our summer season begins Saturday, May 23rd and we will be open every day through Sunday, August 17th. We will open weekends through Monday, Labor Day. Everyone is expected to be available during all holidays and weekends, although we hire enough staff to allow for some flexibility.
- Each employee is allowed up to 2 consecutive weeks off for camps, vacations etc. There is no negotiation in this rule. We are only open for 13 weeks and we need all hands on deck!
- We have shifts covering times from 8am to 11pm depending on the events held at the aquatics center and staff will be scheduled accordingly.

Who can I call with questions?

- **Suzy Turek** - Aquatics Center Manager (o)479-936-5482 (c)479-426-7174 sturek@rogersar.gov
- **Leanne Jacobson** – Assistant Aquatics Manager (o) 479-936-5482 ljacobson@rogersar.gov