

PROGRESSIVE SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR

for NYS Children's Camps

Fact Sheet – January 2026

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

A progressive swimming instructor is required to assess the swimming ability of each camper prior to allowing the child to participate in aquatic activities.

Note: A progressive swimming instructor may not perform lifeguard duties unless currently certified as a qualified lifeguard (see "[Aquatic Certifications](#)" fact sheet) and the individual is not concurrently performing instructional duties.

The following courses meet the certification requirements as specified in Section 7-2.5(f) of [Subpart 7-2](#) of the New York State Sanitary Code:

Accepted Courses	
Provider	Certification Title
American Red Cross (ARC)	➤ Water Safety Instructor ➤ Basic Swim Instructor
Ellis & Associates	➤ JES Instructor
Orchard Park Recreation	➤ Western New York Swimming Instructor ➤ Western New York Swimming Instructor Trainer
PADI	➤ PADI Swimming Instructor Certifications must indicate specialty program training in both Stroke and Swim School
Scouting America (Boy Scouts of America/BSA)	➤ Aquatics Instructor
Starfish Aquatics Institute	➤ Water Safety Educator - Swimming Instructor Certificate Certifications must indicate specialty program training in both Stroke and Swim School Certificate title may contain "Level I" or "Level II"
YMCA	➤ YMCA Swim Lessons Instructor