

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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water Safety Instructor ➤ Basic Swim Instructor
Ellis & Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JES Instructor
Orchard Park Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Western New York Swimming Instructor ➤ Western New York Swimming Instructor Trainer
PADI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PADI Swimming Instructor <p>Certifications must indicate specialty program training in both Stroke and Swim School</p>
Scouting America (Boy Scouts of America/BSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquatics Instructor
Starfish Aquatics Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water Safety Educator - Swimming Instructor Certificate <p>Certifications must indicate specialty program training in both Stroke and Swim School</p> <p>Certificate title may contain "Level I" or "Level II"</p>
YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ YMCA Swim Lessons Instructor