



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LETTER TO LIFEGUARD COURSE PARTICIPANTS **BLENDED LEARNING**

The purpose of the American Red Cross Lifeguarding course is to provide entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illnesses until emergency medical services personnel take over. To enroll in the Lifeguarding course, you must be at least 15 years old before the last scheduled class session.

To participate in the course, you must be able to pass a prerequisite skills evaluation by doing the following:

1. Swim 300 yards continuously demonstrating breath control and rhythmic breathing. You may swim using the front crawl, breaststroke or a combination of both but swimming on the back or side is not allowed. Swim goggles may be used.
2. Tread water for 2 minutes using only the legs. You should place your hands under your armpits.
3. Complete a timed event within 1 minute, 40 seconds:
 - Starting in the water, swim 20 yards. Your face may be in or out of the water. Swim goggles are not allowed.
 - Surface dive, feet-first or head-first, to a depth of 7 to 10 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object.
 - Return to the surface and swim 20 yards on your back to return to the starting point with both hands holding the object while keeping your face at or near the surface so you are able to get a breath. You should not swim the distance under water. Exit the water without using a ladder or steps.

The prerequisite skills evaluation will occur on the first day of the course. Please bring a swimsuit and towel for the skills evaluation and for every class.

To successfully complete the course, you must attend the entire course, participate in all skill sessions/ drills, activities and scenarios, demonstrate competency in all required skills and scenarios, complete all eLearning content two days prior to the first day in-person skills

session of the course (information will be distributed during the Precourse Skills Session), and pass the final exams with a minimum grade of 80 percent (CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid exam is included in the eLearning portion of the course).

The practice sessions will require some strenuous physical activity. You are encouraged to check with your health care professional before participating in the practice sessions. If you have a medical condition or disability that might prevent you from participating in the activities, or have questions about being able to fully participate in the Lifeguarding course, please contact me to discuss this before the course begins.

Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for 2 years.

If you have questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Emily Hendershot, MS
Senior Program Director
YMCA OF CUMBERLAND MD
601 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD 21502
(P) 301.777.9622 EXT. 127
(E) emily@cumberlandymca.org

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility