

Frequently Asked Questions About Becoming a Junior Lifeguard

What is the Junior Lifeguard program?

The Junior Lifeguard program gives experience to 13-14 year olds on how the lifeguard profession is. It is designed to cover different aspects of a lifeguard's job; reading a schedule, going to trainings, swim lessons, having responsibility, clocking in & out, and learning how it is to have a job. The program is mirrored off of how the lifeguard's job runs!

Who Is a Junior Lifeguard and What Do They Do?

A Junior Lifeguard is a 13-14 year old volunteer who likes to work with children, peers and be around water. As a Junior Lifeguard your biggest job is going to be helping with swim lessons by being an aide to the instructors. Teaching swim lessons is a big part of the City of Tempe's aquatic program and Junior Lifeguards are an essential part of the program in order to make it a successful summer. Junior Lifeguards may also be needed during open/recreation swim. During these times a Junior Lifeguard will be asked to help enforce rules; such as no running, helping with slide heights, ect. Junior Lifeguards are expected to attend trainings throughout the summer.

What Is The Mandatory Orientation Before The Summer Starts?

This orientation is required in order to join the Junior Lifeguard program. At the meeting will have a parent meeting and swim lesson orientation. All the information that you will need to know about the program will be addressed at this meeting. Coordinators, policies and expectations will be addressed as well.

What Are Mandatory Trainings During The Summer For?

As a lifeguard you are expect to keep up with your skills and certifications; the City of Tempe does this through mandatory trainings. The Junior Lifeguard program is designed to prepare a Junior Lifeguard in becoming a professional lifeguard, so we mirror the job of a lifeguard. We want every Junior Lifeguard to be ready and prepared in becoming a lifeguard. During trainings they will learn skills that will be taught in the lifeguard class. They will need to be at training to get information that is important for them to know. With trainings being really important to a lifeguard's job, it is also important for a Junior Lifeguard; GOING to trainings make a Junior Lifeguard eligible to work (if they do not go to training they may not be on the schedule).

What Are The Available Hours For A Junior Lifeguard To Work?

The pools are open every day of the week for recreational swim. Most for the hours that are available for Junior Lifeguards are swim lesson hours. Swim lessons run Monday-Thursday either in the morning or evening (and Saturdays at Kiwanis). With swim lesson hours a Junior Lifeguard will have to be available during the whole session. There are hours that will fit everyone's schedule. The main task for the Junior Lifeguards is going to be helping with swim lessons, since it has the most demanding need for extra people. The trainings are included with the available hours.

Where Can I Volunteer?

There are two pools. The Junior Lifeguards are able to choose from any of these pools.

Kiwanis Waves Pool-6111 S. All America Way and Escalante Pool 2150 E. Orange St.

What Are Junior Lifeguards Required To Wear As a Uniform?

Junior Lifeguards are required to purchase the swim suit, shorts, a hat and sunglasses (if assigned to Escalante). For female swim suit it must be a one piece and a competitive type swim suit. Females may also wear solid black shorts. Males must wear a black board short type swim suit. They will be given an official City of Tempe Junior Lifeguard t-shirt that must be worn at all times while on duty. However, before they receive their official shirt they will need a plain white t-shirt. Sandals are also recommended for Junior Lifeguards to have while working. For Junior Lifeguards that are working at the outdoor pool sunglasses, sunscreen, and a plain white hat are also required as part of your uniform.

How Do Vacations and Time Off Work?

As soon as you know you should let us know. We will be asking for and about your availability throughout the summer. We do ask that you give at least a 2 week notice of time needed off. We understand that things come up. Junior Lifeguards are allowed to switch or get shifts covered by other Junior Lifeguards working at the same pool, with a coordinator's permission. Junior Lifeguards will be able to make changes to their availabilities at trainings.

Do I Get Paid?

No, you do not get paid. Being a Junior Lifeguard is a volunteer position with the City of Tempe. However, once you complete 100 volunteer hours as a City of Tempe Junior Lifeguard and turn 15, you are able to take the American Red Cross Lifeguard Course for free through the City of Tempe. You also get volunteer experience and are able to use the coordinators as a person of reference.

Do I Have To Know How To Swim?

Yes, you should know how to swim freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke and be able to tread water for a minute. You should also have knowledge of sidestroke and butterfly. You do not need to be on a swim team, but knowing how to swim is an essential part of being a Junior Lifeguard. You will be swimming at your training sessions and a Junior Lifeguard's main job is to help out during swim lessons.

Can I Have My Friends and Family Come Visit While I am Working?

Yes, your friends and family may come and pay to use the swimming pool while you are on duty, BUT hanging out with them or goofing off while on duty is NOT ACCEPTABLE! Your friends and family can come visit you while you are working as long as you are acting professional. If a Junior Lifeguard is unable to act professional while at work when family or friends could visit, they will no longer be able to have friends or family over during their shifts.

If you have any questions,

Please call the Jr. Guard Hotline

480-350-5731

OR

E-mail Zak Ferrara, the Jr. Guard Program Coordinator

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