

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Life Guards Needed”



It's a great opportunity for someone who loves to be around water and likes to work with people. The City of Norfolk will be hiring 50 lifeguards for next year's swimming season. Currently there are 20 lifeguards who work at the city pools. The new water facility at Veterans Memorial Park will allow more people to swim and require more lifeguards to watch over them. In anticipation of that need for lifeguards, a class is being organized to certify more people to be trained before next summer.

“We wanted to start early so that we have enough good quality guards to work at the

new facility. With the need for concessions workers and aids, we'll be hiring 60-70 kids to work next summer,” said Sheila Schukei, Human Resources Director for the City of Norfolk.

Finding trained lifeguards will be the first priority and Schukei said certification classes will be held in the winter months preparing for the opening of the new water facility in mid-June 2012.

The first American Red Cross lifeguard class will be held July 22, 23, and 24 at Memorial Pool located at 900 Blaine Street. The training will take approximately 30 hours with some classroom time and also training in the pool. The city will pay for the training and the students will be responsible for any books or materials required for the course. Those taking the class must be at least 15-years-old.

According to instructor Brooke Tomka, students taking the course must also be proficient swimmers.

“They will need to be able to do 100 yards of rhythmic breathing swimming, 100 yards of the breast stroke and 100 yards of either the crawl or the breast stroke- all without stopping for a break. They also need to be able to retrieve a 10 pound weight from the bottom of the nine foot depth pool and carry it for 25 yards as they swim on their back. We'll do this the first day so they'll know if they can handle the physical demands of being a lifeguard,” Tomka said.

Since the lifeguards will need to know what to watch for in a wave pool, zero depth pool, eight lane pool, play area and slide area, they will be trained in guarding all aspects of a water facility. The Red Cross Lifeguard certification is good for three years.

Each class is only able to have 10-12 students so people who are interested in taking the course must register by calling 844-2010 or email sschukei@ci.norfolk.ne.us as soon as possible. According to Schukei, more classes will be offered in the coming months. Applications for the lifeguard openings for the summer of 2012 will also be taken from currently certified lifeguards.