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“First Lifeguards in Training Course Completed”

They may not be ready to sit in the lifeguard chair at AquaVenture Water Park but the graduates of the first Lifeguard in Training course know more about water safety than they did two weeks ago when they started the class.

Syra Mashek is one of the three ten-year-olds who enrolled in the first ever junior lifesaving class in Norfolk. Altogether twelve youth ages 10 to 14 were enrolled in the course taught by certified lifeguard Abby Schukei.



Syra took the course because she has always wanted to be a lifeguard and thought she'd get a head start on learning the skills even though certified lifeguards have to be at least 15-years-old.

“She was so interested in knowing more about lifeguarding. She saw the flyer and wanted to do it. She's learned a lot,” said Syra's mom, Maria Mashek of Norfolk. She said Syra would probably take the class again next year.

Brenda Carhart was at the final day of the Lifeguard in training course watching her daughter, Rachel, demonstrate what she had

learned in the last two weeks.

“It's good water safety training even if she decides she doesn't want to be a life guard. Kids can't go wrong taking this class,” Carhart said.

This is the first time that Abby Schukei has taught a lifeguarding class for younger kids.

“It's a good learning experience for the kids. They're interested and ask good questions. Now they know what to expect in a true lifeguard certification course,” Schukei said.

The students in the course learned some basic CPR skills, how to get a person who was in danger of drowning get out of the water and other basic water safety skills. Each student will shadow a lifeguard at AquaVenture Water Park for an hour in the next week to see what it's like to be a real on-duty lifeguard.

Mayor Sue Fuchtman was on hand after the final class to congratulate the students and help Abby present the students with special Lifeguard in Training t-shirts and a completion certificate.