

# AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD COURSE

Dear Lifeguard Course Participant:

Thank you for enrolling in the American Red Cross Lifeguard course. The purpose of the American Red Cross Lifeguard course is to provide entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies. In addition you will learn to provide care for breathing/cardiac emergencies and first aid for injuries/sudden illnesses until emergency medical services personnel take over.

To enroll in the Lifeguard 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 the prerequisite skills evaluation that includes 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 not allowed.*)
  - Surface dive, feet 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 above water 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.

***The Grangeville City Pool will be open Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm – 5:30pm for course participants to practice for the prerequisite skills evaluation.***

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, and pass the final written exams with a minimum grade of 80 percent.

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 a medical condition or disability exists that might prevent participation in the activities, or there are questions about fully participating in the Lifeguard 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 Lifeguard/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for 2 years.

**If you have questions, please contact me directly at (208) - 451 - 0148.**

Sincerely,

Ciarra Benton  
American Red Cross Instructor