



Water Safety Questions to Ask Your Child's Camp

1. What is the water safety policy at this camp?

The camp should be able to provide a detailed description of water safety policy, including testing of swimmers, qualification of instructors and lifeguards, procedures for managing children in/around water, pool occupancy, etc.

2. Who will be supervising pool activities and are they certified?

Camp lifeguards should be certified by a nationally recognized certification agency such as: American Red Cross, Ellis and Associates, or Starguard Elite. Instructors should also have training in properly teaching children how to be water-safe.

3. Do the camp leads have experience working/supervising a camp or swim club setting with many swimmers in the pool at the time?

Ideally the camp directors or those leading the aquatic and in-water aspects should have experience managing large groups in the specific type of body of water at the camp.

4. What are the camper-to-lifeguard ratios?

Most aquatics agencies recommend the ratio not exceed one lifeguard to every 25 swimmers, but an even safer ratio is 1:15.

5. Are lifeguards dedicated to the supervision of water activities or are they expected to perform other duties as well?

Lifeguards' only job should be to maintain the safety of swimmers at all times the facility is in use. Assignment of additional duties such as teaching lessons, organizing games, or playing in the pool with campers should be given to those staff not responsible for water watching duties. To learn more, you can review the [Model Aquatic Health Code](#).

6. Are counselors trained and certified in CPR and First Aid?

The majority of counselors should be certified in CPR and First Aid.



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7. Are lifejackets readily available for campers choosing to wear one?

There should be [properly fitting](#) life jackets available for all swimmers who would prefer to wear one. Campers should be able to bring and use their own provided it fits properly and is [US Coast Guard-approved](#).

Life jackets should be available to all campers engaging in open water activities, such as kayaking, paddleboarding and other water sports, even in the pool. And lifejacket use in and around boats at the camp should be in accordance with [California State law](#).

8. [If there is a pool,] does the pool meet all current code requirements?

You can request documentation from the camp confirming the pool has met county code requirements. Camps must also observe occupancy requirements. Pools should also be maintained by persons knowledgeable in pH balance, electrical, structural and other mechanicals.

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