

Centennial Connection



American Red Cross



Openers

Happy Spring!

As we head into a new season, we're energized by the impact you're making and excited for the spring and summer ahead. Through the Aquatics Centennial Campaign, your work is expanding access to swim lessons, water safety education, CPR training, and workforce training where it's needed most—and that impact is growing daily.

We felt that momentum on the March Connector Call. It was fun, right?! The passion and commitment across this community were unmistakable! We were especially inspired by Claryce (City of Temple, TX) and Jenny (City of Redding, CA), who shared highlights from their innovative aquatics programs. The best part? These programs are scalable and replicable. Your reactions throughout their presentations reinforce that when we learn from one another, our impact multiplies. Thanks to everyone who joined in the trivia fun (for those who correctly answered first, your prizes should be on hand by now!).

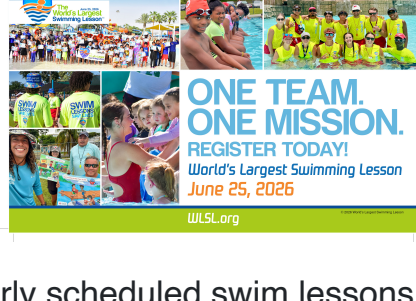
We're proud to be part of this community with you. We are here to support you as you expand your reach and bring lifesaving programs and services to every corner of your community. #ProudRedCrosser



Operations

Register to Be Part of the World's Largest Swimming Lesson™ – June 25, 2026

It's time to register for the 17th Annual World's Largest Swimming Lesson! The 2026 event takes place on Thursday, June 25. Host facilities can utilize their regularly scheduled swim lessons to participate or host an event at any time on June 25. Registration fees apply. For more information and to get signed up go to www.wsl.org.



Because Life Saving Looks Legendary

Register by May 15 and be entered to win cool WLSL merchandise for you and your team! Please watch for an email on how to enter.



Spotlight On

Big Lessons in the Pool: WHALE Tales in Action

Submitted by Kennedy Kidd



Hi! This is Kennedy Kidd from the **City of Alvin Recreation Center** in Texas! I had the pleasure of teaching the WHALE Tales water safety class last summer! We had an amazing class of kids for the session we completed. My co-teacher and I would arrive in the morning to greet the children, play silly icebreakers, and have a small summary of the previous day. We would then watch videos on the safety topic of the day and do an open discussion on what the video talked about. We also worked on activity worksheets for the daily safety topics. My personal favorite was when the class got to design their own pools! During the second half of the class we took the children out to our pool and had them demonstrate what they learned in class. Then we would also play a few fun games! It was an amazing class that combined different facets of learning to show children the importance of water safety. I am excited to teach the next Longfellow's WHALE Tales class.



Resources

Resources for Water Safety Month

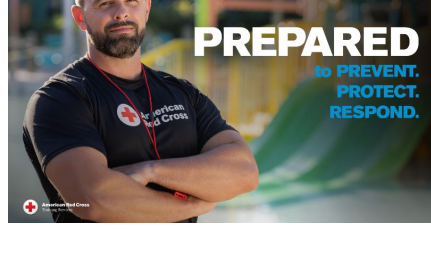
As you prepare for water safety month and the chance to share water safety knowledge with your community, we want to remind you of all the great resources available. A few assets to highlight:

1. **Printable posters** for the Circle of Drowning Prevention, the Chain of Drowning Survival, Water Safety Tips, and the 5 Skills to Save your Life in the Water, all available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole at www.redcross.org/watersafety.
2. **Free online water safety courses**, like "Seguridad en el Agua para Padres y Cuidadores" or "Water Safety for Parents and Caregivers". Set these courses up and track engagement by using "Request Online Class" on RCLC.
3. **Water safety talking points** on the [Drowning Prevention & Facts](http://www.redcross.org/watersafety) page that can be deployed on social media, in public comments, or in communications with elected officials.

If there are other resources that you need, or if you have a unique opportunity that requires some extra support, reach out and let us know. We are here to help!

Use Class Posting Service to Connect with Future Lifeguards!

Amazing lifeguards can come from anywhere – swim teams, swim lessons, Junior Lifeguarding programs, or people who take the initiative to sign up for your public Lifeguarding class on their own. You never know how your next team member is going to find you, but one place where they probably won't find you is redcross.org/takeaclass, unless you post your Lifeguarding classes using the Class Posting Service. Non-profit organizations, including municipalities, can post aquatic classes for free. Be sure to contact your representative to make sure your account is set up to allow for this option. If you don't know who that is, please reach out. To post, log in to the Learning Center and select the "List Class on RCO" button on the right-hand side. In the form, use the links in the top right-hand corner to access the how-to document or watch a video demonstration. Please reach out if you have any questions.



Quick Links

Red Cross Learning Center Overview & Orientations for Instructors and Administrators

- Register here: [Overview & Orientation Session](#)
- Register here: [Setting Up & Delivering Classes](#)

Request Online Class

Request Online Class can be found on RCLC only if you are logged into your account and you are an Administrator with Partner Portal Access. The red button for Request Online Course is on the righthand side.

- [Request Online Class](#)
- [Request Online Class Quick Reference Guide](#)



Calendar

Water Safety Instructor® Trainer Academies

Interested in attending an academy? Start by reviewing the [Instructor Trainer qualifications](#). If you meet the requirements, submit your [application](#). Approval usually takes about 1–2 weeks. Once approved, your eligibility to reserve a spot is valid for one year. Apply early—enrollment closes one month before the academy start date.

- **May 11-15:** Strongsville, OH
- **May 18-22:** Laurel, MD
- **June 8-12:** Twin Cities, MN
- **June 22-26:** Boston, MA
- **July 20-24:** Dublin, OH
- **August 17-54:** Sierra Vista, AZ
- **September 28-October 2:** Fontana, CA
- **October 19-23:** Plano, TX
- **November 9-13:** Carson City, NV

If you have an Academy fee waiver as a part of your Centennial Addendum, please reach out. We can provide you with guidance to make sure that your waiver is applied before you must pay the registration fee.

[Click here to manage communication preferences.](#)