



## **WMFC Lifeguard Application Packet**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the West Midland Family Center Lifeguard Staff. You have already taken the first step to having a fun, rewarding and very memorable summer!

Please complete the attached WMFC Application and Aquatic Addendum and mail or email to:

Renee Allen, Aquatic Director  
West Midland Family Center  
4011 W. Isabella Rd.  
Shepherd, MI 48883  
allenr@wmfc.org

For more information, you could also check out the "Aquatics" link on [www.wmfc.org](http://www.wmfc.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many lifeguards do you typically employ? Typically we employ 5-8 guards during the summer, but the number fluctuates depending on our need, and the number of hours that each guard is able to work, or wants to work, during the summer.
2. How many days a week is the pool open? In the past summers we have been open Monday through Saturday. We have typically been closed on Sundays unless there is a pool rental.
3. What is your pool like? Our pool is quite small for a community pool (46,000 gallons) and only 4 feet deep at the deepest part. There is a "zero degree" entry at the north end of the pool and a "teacup" feature in the middle of the pool. Our pool fairly easy to guard but we have to be extra careful to do whatever we can to prevent swimmers from diving into the pool.
4. What kind of work shifts would I be expected to work? We typically do not have shifts that are less than 3 hours long or longer than 8 hours long. Once the lifeguard work schedule is completed, it typically does not change for the entire summer. This enables our lifeguards to have the same schedule all summer making it easier to schedule others activities or jobs into their summer.
5. How much will I be paid? Pay is determined by a number of factors, including past experience, number of years previously worked at WMFC, types of certifications, and level of education. The pay range is typically \$6.75 to over \$9.00 per hour.
6. Do I get breaks for lunch and/or to get out of the sun? The lifeguards work together to determine the type of rotation and the length and number of breaks that they need during the day. This may vary depending on the number of patrons, the type of weather and other factors.
7. Do I have to wear a uniform? We do require that lifeguards dress in a particular way so that they can be easily identified. Lifeguards may wear any color of suit as long as the top half of their body is covered in red. WMFC provides each guard with a red shirt and/or tank top at the beginning of the summer. There are also visors and warm up jackets on site that can be used as needed. Men who want to wear just a swim suit while guarding on hot days only need to wear one of our red lifeguard visors to fulfill the uniform requirements. Rescue tubes and whistles are also a part of every guards uniform and must be "attached" to the lifeguard when they are on duty. Lifeguards are required to provide their own whistles
8. How is the lifeguard team set up? Are there head guards? Typically the guards work together as a team when they make decisions on deck but we do have 1-2 head guards who will make a decision if the team cannot come to an agreement. Our head guards also lead our guard trainings, teach our Junior Lifeguards and are put into other positions of authority as needed.
9. How old are the lifeguards? We have lifeguards that range from 15 years old through seniors in college. We value a healthy balance between young and old. Many of our lifeguards return year after year until their college careers take them elsewhere.
10. Are there opportunities to work during the year when the pool is closed? YES! WMFC is always looking for staff during the school year and the first place that they tend to look is to those who are already working at the Center.

11. Do you provide regular lifeguard trainings throughout the summer? YES. We have weekly lifeguard meetings and weekly lifeguard trainings throughout the summer. We also have extensive trainings in May and June including a backboard training session in early June with our local Fire Department who are our First Responders.
12. Do you offer swim lessons? YES, Swim lessons are typically held in the evenings and on Friday and Saturday mornings/early afternoons. Please let us know if you would like to teach swim lessons as we are always looking for those who have a passion for teaching lessons.
13. What are the pool hours? Pool hours are typically Monday through Thursday 8:30AM -7:30 PM, and Friday/Saturday 12:00 noon to 7:30 PM. During these times we have everything from Aqua Aerobics class, to summer camp to swim lessons and open swim.
14. What is "summer camp"? Summer camp (formerly called "Summer Program") is pretty much a day camp. Approximately 250 kids aged preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade spend Monday through Thursday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM at the Center. During this time there are 1-1.5 hour time blocks where different groups will use the pool exclusively. Summer camp is always looking for staff so if you know of someone who is not a lifeguard but might be looking for a summer job that involves working with children and making a difference in someone's life have them apply for our summer camp. They can call Stacey Urbani at 989-832-3256.

Please feel free to check out our website at [www.wmfc.org](http://www.wmfc.org) to find out more about our aquatic staff and programming.