NEWS RELEASE

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City of Nanaimo launches new lifeguard training program

Applications for the "To the Rescue" program being accepted

Summary

The City of Nanaimo Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture has developed an employment training program called "To the Rescue" as a way to train and hire lifeguards and swim instructors for Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Beban Park Pool and Westwood Lake.

The program will provide opportunities for potential employees by offering financial support to achieve leadership certifications required to become a lifeguard and swim instructor. This two-month program will have the participants taking part in seven core courses starting this July:

- Bronze Medallion (July 10-13)
- Bronze Cross (July 17-20)
- National Lifeguard Pool Option (July 27-August 4)
- Lifesaving Society Swim for Life and Lifesaving Instructor (August 14-25)
- Standard First Aid (July 14 or July 21)

Besides potential employment, taking part in the program helps students earn high school credits, gain transferable skills, including problem solving, responsibility, leadership and teamwork. It is also a great opportunity to get introduced to a variety of work-related fields, including school teacher, nurse, paramedic, coast guard, fire rescue and more.

To be eligible for the financial support, participants must be 16 years old by September 1, 2023, commit to the training program by having 100 percent attendance and have excellent availability to work starting in September. Training fees will be reimbursed after participant has completed the probation period of employment.

To apply, applicants can fill out the online form found on the City of Nanaimo website (To the Rescue application) or they can pick up a copy at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and Beban Park Pool, as well as submit a cover letter and resume. These documents should be sent to Kathy Gonzales, Aquatic Manager, by email (kathy.gonzales@nanaimo.ca) or dropped off to Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (741 Third Street).

Application deadline is Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Strategic Link: The City of Nanaimo is committed to the livability of its citizens.

Key Points

- The purpose of the "To the Rescue" program is to provide an opportunity for lifeguard and swim instructor training and the potential to obtain employment as a lifeguard/swim instructor with the City of Nanaimo.
- This training fees are reimbursed upon successful completion of probation of employment with the City of Nanaimo.
- Applications can be found online or at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and Beban Park Pool. Application deadline is Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Quotes

"This 'To the Rescue' program is an innovative way to recruit staff for the pools which has been a challenge since the pandemic. It is a great opportunity to receive the training for employment and to learn a variety of life-long skills, including leadership, problem-solving and teamwork. In a short two months, you can be working with the City of Nanaimo in our pools."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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