**GSNENY Small Craft Safety FAQ**

1. Does this training give you a certification or a certificate? What is the difference?
   1. **After completion of the training (or challenging the course) GSNENY will provide a certificate recognizing you for demonstrating the mandatory skills and knowledge. We are not a certifying body, this class allows staff and volunteers to achieve the demonstrated equivalent of a certification, which is mandatory per our safety checkpoints.**
2. How much does a small craft safety class cost?
   1. **$25**
3. How long is this training good for? If I challenge the course how long is that certificate good for?
   1. **Both the full training and challenge are good for 2 years.**
4. Is this class different from the old Red Cross class?
   1. **This class is essentially the same as the old Red Cross class you may have taken in the past. There is a classroom component (which may be completed in-person or virtually depending on the class offering) along with an in-water skills portion and final test.**
5. Why would I want to take this training?
   1. **This training allows you to demonstrate necessary skills and for GSNENY to recognize your skills in small craft handling and safety. A person with these skills is required to be present for all troop or council lead events where girls are using row boats, canoes, kayaks, or any other small craft.**
6. What are the pre-requisites for the class?
   1. **- need to look up in materials**
7. How long is the class?
   1. **The full course can take up to 5 hours, based on a full class. If there are fewer participants, the course will end earlier.**
8. If I was certified in the past, do I need to take the whole class over again?
   1. **If you have taken Small Craft Safety in the past (from the American Red Cross) then you do not need to take the whole class over again. You can challenge the course, where you just show the final skills and take the test. Opportunities to challenge this course will be offered in the future.**
9. Do we need a lifeguard and a small craft safety person if my troop is going boating?
   1. **Yes.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **# Girls** | **Lifeguard** | **Boating Instructor** | **Watcher** |
| 1-10 | 1 Combined | | 1 |
| 11-12 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 13-24 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 25-36 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 37-48 | 4 | 2 | 5 |

1. What is the age requirement to be a lifeguard?
   1. **While lifeguards can be certified at 16 years of age, at least one lifeguard on the waterfront must be 18 or older. If the waterfront is open with only one lifeguard, that lifeguard must be over the age of 18.**
2. What is the age requirement to be a watcher?
   1. **Watchers must be adults at least 18 years or older who are completely focused on the swimmers/boaters. They cannot be completing other tasks or participating in the activity.**
3. What are the certification requirements for lifeguard and watcher?
   1. **Lifeguards need to have a current lifeguard certification as well as CPR Pro, First Aid (or Responding to Emergencies) and if they are at a waterfront/lake the lifeguard must also have the Waterfront Module.**
   2. **Watchers do not need any certifications. They just need to be 18 years or older.**
4. How were these ratios and standards developed?
   1. **The ratios of Girl/Boater to Lifeguard, Boating Instructor and Watcher were decided upon with our Girl Scouts’ safety in mind. These ratios are a combination of the previous American Red Cross standards, current Girl Scout Safety Checkpoints, and our insurance requirements. These ratios are very similar to the requirements previously followed by this council.**
5. I am interested in teaching this class. Can I become a small craft safety trainer?
   1. **We are working on developing a process for interested volunteers to become instructor trainers, meaning you can teach the basic class. If you are interested in becoming a trainer, please reach out to volunteer services at** [**VolunteerServices@girlscoutsneny.org**](mailto:VolunteerServices@girlscoutsneny.org)**. Please note you will have to have taken this course recently (have a current certificate) to qualify once this option is available.**
6. How can I find a class?
   1. **For now, the best way to find an upcoming class is to contact Volunteer Services at** [**VolunteerServices@girlscoutsneny.org**](mailto:VolunteerServices@girlscoutsneny.org)**.**