

# READ THE REGS...

In June of 2022 the OEC posted a memo that highlights some of the changes to youth camp regulations in CT. You can find the link to this memo at the bottom of this article.

One such change was regarding the certifications required for the **Director of Small Craft Waterfront**. Many camps have found it difficult to find a suitable, affordable and accessible certification for Boating since the American Red Cross discontinued their Small Craft Safety Course. In response to that, the Office of Early Childhood updated the regulations. As a side note – the CT camping community has been grateful that the Boy Scouts and particularly The Cliftons over at Deer Lake have stepped up to provide training the past couple of years.

Here is the exact wording of the regulations: “(e) The youth camp shall have a director of each small craft waterfront area, if such area is used for small craft activities by the youth camp, who shall be at least twenty years of age, shall possess current certification in American Red Cross Lifeguard Training or its equivalent, as determined by the Office, shall have successfully completed a boating safety course applicable to the type of small craft used at the youth camp and shall have experience and boating safety skills appropriate for the type of small craft used and body of water at the youth camp, verified and documented by the youth camp director. Each such director shall comply with the provisions of the applicable state statutes and regulations governing boating laws and scuba diving.”

In short it means you need the following:

1. 20 years old+
2. Lifeguard Trained
3. Boating safety Course applicable to the type of small craft used at the camp – *however there is not a specific list of courses that you are confined to, and it does not eliminate the possibility of the class being an online class.*
4. Skill verification by the youth camp director
5. Must follow the state statutes and regulations governing boating laws.

Here is how the OEC breaks it down: [Youth Camp Licensing Staff Requirements – Director of Small Craft Waterfront](#)

For a list of qualifications required for other activities, including Archery, Aquatics, Challenge Course, First Aid, Horseback Riding and Shooting Sports, [click here](#).

Check out the link to see the full list of changes to the youth camp regulations: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Memo-and-Notice-of-New-Youth-Camp-Reqs.pdf>

Please know that this is my interpretation of the regulations – you should always **READ THE REGS** yourself to ensure your camp is in compliance. Here is a link to the OEC CT: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Youth-Camp-Statutes-and-Regulations-2022.pdf>