

**DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**LIFEGUARD, INSTRUCTOR, AND AQUATIC WORKFORCE MONTH
PROCLAMATION 2026-01**

WHEREAS the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District is committed to protecting public safety and promoting health, wellness, and water safety through high-quality aquatic programs at Mount Rainier Pool; and

WHEREAS lifeguards, swim instructors, and aquatic professionals provide essential services that prevent drowning, respond to emergencies, and create safe and inclusive recreational opportunities for the community; and

WHEREAS the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District provides free lifeguard, instructor, and aquatic workforce training and preparedness through a combination of direct District funding, grant support, and community partnerships, reducing financial barriers to entry and expanding access to aquatic careers; and

WHEREAS training and employing young people in aquatics provides critical first-job experience, builds confidence and leadership, and equips youth with transferable skills while strengthening staffing stability and institutional knowledge at Mount Rainier Pool; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District has hired, trained, and mentored more than 120 youth and young adults, providing professional certifications, leadership development, and meaningful employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, many former aquatic staff members have gone on to pursue higher education, serve in the military, and enter careers in the trades and professional fields, including medical, financial, first responder, military, and other public service professions; and

WHEREAS, aquatic workforce development programs foster responsibility, teamwork, discipline, and lifesaving skills that prepare participants for long-term personal and professional success; and

WHEREAS, continued investment in lifeguard and instructor training strengthens community safety, expands access to aquatic careers, and supports a sustainable regional aquatic workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District hereby proclaims **MARCH as LIFEGUARD, INSTRUCTOR, AND AQUATIC WORKFORCE MONTH**; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the District recognizes and thanks all current and former lifeguards, swim instructors, trainers, and aquatic professionals for their service and affirms its continued commitment to aquatic workforce development and water safety education.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the **Board of Commissioners** of the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** at an open meeting of such Board on the **24th of February 2026**, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Signed by:
Shane Young
0D06E227C9C457

President Young

Signed by:
Holly Campbell
0B1A62A5EB0A0D

Clerk of the Board Campbell

Signed by:
Joe Dusenbury
5EBDDA8899F2474

Commissioner Dusenbury

Signed by:
Ben Fortine
6C3F129D2934412

Commissioner Fortine

Commissioner Stender

Signed by:
Angela Melan
C5003FA1BE421

District Clerk