



Water Safety Information and Resources

At Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District, the safety and well-being of our students extends beyond the classroom. As families enjoy pools, lakes, rivers, and other waterways throughout our area, we encourage everyone to make water safety a priority.

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, New York State requires school districts to annually share water safety information and resources with families. We hope the information below helps your family enjoy a safe, healthy, and memorable summer while making informed decisions around water.

Water Safety Tips

Remember these important safety reminders:

- **Always supervise children closely around water.** Young children should remain within arm's reach of a responsible adult.
- **Never swim alone.** Always use the buddy system whenever swimming.
- **Learn to swim.** Encourage children and family members to participate in swim lessons to build confidence and water competency.
- **Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket** when boating or participating in water activities, especially for children and inexperienced swimmers.
- **Swim only in designated swimming areas** and always check posted warnings, water conditions, and weather before entering the water.
- **Recognize the signs of drowning.** Drowning is often silent and may not look like what is portrayed in movies or on television.
- **Never dive into shallow or unfamiliar water.** Be sure the water is at least eight feet deep before diving.
- **Avoid swimming during thunderstorms or severe weather.** Leave the water immediately if thunder or lightning is present.
- **Protect yourself from the sun and heat.** Wear sunscreen, stay hydrated, and take breaks to avoid overheating and fatigue.
- **Avoid alcohol and drugs** while swimming, boating, or supervising others around water.
- **Learn CPR and basic water rescue skills.** Being prepared can make a lifesaving difference in an emergency.

Local Opportunities

Our area offers several wonderful places for families to enjoy the water safely.

CD Lane Park (Maplecrest) Offers a public beach with swimming in designated areas when a lifeguard is on duty. While formal swim lessons are not offered, it is a great local destination to enjoy swimming in a designated, lifeguarded area while practicing safe water habits.

Mine Kill State Park (North Blenheim) offers seasonal American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim lessons for children and adults, making it an excellent opportunity for families interested in developing swimming skills.

North-South Lake (Haines Falls) offers supervised public swimming beaches during the summer months. While formal swim lessons are not offered, it is a great local destination to enjoy swimming in a designated, lifeguarded area while practicing safe water habits.

Additional Resources For Additional Information

New York State Department of Health

The New York State Department of Health provides guidance on safe swimming, drowning prevention, water quality, and protecting children around water.

For more information:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/swimming/>

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross offers water safety guidance, CPR information, and resources to help families find certified swim lesson providers.

For more information:

<https://www.redcross.org>

Pool Safely – U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Pool Safely focuses on preventing child drownings through proper supervision, pool barriers, and safe practices around residential pools and spas.

For more information:

<https://www.poolsafely.gov/>

National Drowning Prevention Alliance

The National Drowning Prevention Alliance promotes a "Layers of Protection" approach to water safety, emphasizing supervision, swimming skills, life jackets, barriers, and emergency preparedness.

For more information:

<https://ndpa.org/toolkit/>

I asked Chat GPT to create an image for our website.



WATER SAFETY

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Helping WAJ families enjoy safe recreation in and around the water.



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WATER SAFETY TIPS

Before heading to the water, remember these important safety reminders:



Always supervise children closely around water.
Young children should remain within arm's reach of a responsible adult.



Never swim alone.
Always use the buddy system whenever swimming.



Learn to swim.
Encourage children and family members to participate in swim lessons to build confidence and water competency.



Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when boating or participating in water activities, especially for children and inexperienced swimmers.



Swim only in designated swimming areas and always check posted warnings, water conditions, and weather before entering the water.



Recognize the signs of drowning.
Drowning is often silent and may not look like what is portrayed in movies or on television.



Never dive into shallow or unfamiliar water.
Be sure the water is at least eight feet deep before diving.



Avoid swimming during thunderstorms or severe weather.
Leave the water immediately if thunder or lightning is present.



Protect yourself from the sun and heat.
Wear sunscreen, stay hydrated, and take breaks to avoid overheating and fatigue.



Avoid alcohol and drugs while swimming, boating, or supervising others around water.



Learn CPR and basic water rescue skills.
Being prepared can make a lifesaving difference in an emergency.



LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our area offers several wonderful places for families to enjoy the water safely.



CD LANE PARK (Maplecrest)

Offers a public beach with swimming in designated areas when a lifeguard is on duty. While formal swim lessons are not offered, it is a great local destination to enjoy swimming in a designated, lifeguarded area while practicing safe water habits.



MINE KILL STATE PARK (North Blenheim)

Offers seasonal American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim lessons for children and adults, making it an excellent opportunity for families interested in developing swimming skills.



NORTH-SOUTH LAKE (Haines Falls)

Offers supervised public swimming beaches during the summer months. While formal swim lessons are not offered, it is a great local destination to enjoy swimming in a designated, lifeguarded area while practicing safe water habits.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information:



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Provides guidance on safe swimming, drowning prevention, water quality, and protecting children around water.

[LEARN MORE](#)

health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/swimming/



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Offers water safety guidance, CPR information, and resources to help families find certified swim lesson providers.

[LEARN MORE](#)

redcross.org



POOL SAFETY – U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Focuses on preventing child drownings through proper supervision, pool barriers, and safe practices around residential pools and spas.

[LEARN MORE](#)

poolsafely.gov



NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION ALLIANCE

Promotes a "Layers of Protection" approach to water safety, emphasizing supervision, swimming skills, life jackets, barriers, and emergency preparedness.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ndpa.org/toolkit/



Enjoy the many lakes, pools, and parks our region has to offer—but always make water safety your first priority.

