

# NEW JERSEY OCEAN BEACHES LIFEGUARD WAGE/SALARY SURVEY



August, 2000

*Compiled by Michael Fowler; Lifeguard Supervisor, Monmouth County Park System  
Distributed by the United States Lifesaving Association - Monmouth County Chapter*

Agencies listed north to south, all area codes (732) unless otherwise indicated.

**Notes:** I have compiled information for 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. Data was provided by a top ranking lifeguard officer or beach manager of each agency. Every effort was made to insure accuracy, but I do not accept responsibility for errors. If you wish your agency to be included in future surveys, but have been omitted, please contact me at (732) 774-2253.

Each year, I try to improve the content of this survey. For 2000, I asked one census type question - "Did you have difficulty staffing your lifeguard crew this season?" I have been searching for a correlation between wages and staffing difficulties. Although there are relationships among wages and staffing, the integrity/difficulty of the tryout test, and the job environment in general, apparently the number of applicants is more directly related to recruiting efforts on behalf of the lifeguard agency. Some agencies start to groom future guards at age 11, and Junior Lifeguard Programs are instrumental as a source of future applicants.

This survey is conducted for the sole purpose of providing information to ocean lifeguard agencies in New Jersey. Thank you. *Spike Fowler*

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**MONMOUTH COUNTY**

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**Gateway National Recreation Area (Sandy Hook Unit) Lifeguards**

Level 1 .....	\$10.84
Level 2 .....	11.53
Sergeants (11) .....	13.25
Lieutenants (5) .....	13.97
Assistant Chief (1) .....	15.53
Chief .....	17.19

*Notes:* rates include 1.25 times hourly rate on Sundays; 2 times hourly rate on holidays (3); Seasonally accruable 4 hrs. vacation leave every two weeks; Permanently accruable 4 hrs. sick leave every two weeks  
Crew size = 73

Chief Lifeguard: Thomas McLoughlin, Assistant Chief: David Pearson  
Lifeguard headquarters - 872-5894

*Question:* Did have difficulty staffing lifeguard crew; short approximately 4 guards for part of the season.

**Surfrider Beach Club**

Start.....	\$6.00
2nd .....	6.50
3rd .....	7.00
4th .....	7.50
Assistant Head Lifeguard .....	8.00
Head Lifeguard .....	10.00

Crew size = 14

Manager: James LoBiondo; 842-2358

*Question:* Had difficulty staffing at the beginning of the season, but OK once the season got going. The Red Cross helped with staffing.

**Sea Bright Beach Club Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.00
2nd .....	6.50
3rd .....	7.00
4th .....	7.50
Head guard (range) .....	\$8.50 to 12.00

Wages depend on qualifications and performance; wages include lunch daily plus a Christmas bonus from 0% to 12% based on performance of summer season.

Guards rotate pool and beach

Crew size = 15

General Manager: Clay Wilbanks; 842-0245

*Question:* No difficulty staffing, most guards returned

**Borough of Sea Bright Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.00
2nd .....	6.50
3rd .....	7.00
4th .....	7.50
5th - Senior Guard .....	8.00
6th - Lieutenant (2) .....	8.50
7th - Assistant Crew Captain (1) .....	9.00
8th - Crew Captain (1) .....	9.50
Lifeguard Supervisor (1).....	10.00
Chief of Water Safety & Beach Operations: Annual Salary \$18,750	
Crew size = 22	
Chief: Bill Mack; Assistant Beach Manager: Dave Farley; 842-0215	
<i>Question:</i> No problems staffing; excess of applicants	

**Tradewinds Beach Club, Sea Bright**

Start.....	\$6.00
Annual increment.....	+ .25/hr.
Merit increment .....	+ .25/hr.
Head Guards (2) 2000 average .....	12.50
Crew size = 15; rotate beach and pool	
Head Guard Karen Manista; 842-4466	
<i>Question:</i> No problems staffing, but did experience problems with enrollment in lifeguarding classes.	

**Driftwood Beach Club**

Start.....	\$6.30
2nd .....	6.75
3rd .....	7.25
4th .....	7.95
Assistant Head Guard .....	8.95
Head Guard.....	10.00
Crew size = 24; rotate beach and 3 pools	
Manager: Kevin Markland; Head Guard: Andy Wise; 842-2273	
<i>Question:</i> No difficulty staffing; had approximately 25 tryout for 15 positions	

**Monmouth Beach Bath and Tennis Club Lifeguards**

Start (flexible range) .....\$6.00 to \$12.00  
Annual increment..... 1.00  
Lifeguard Captain ..... 15.00  
Season bonus \$100 to \$250 pending performance evaluation  
Crew size = 10; rotate beach and pool  
General Manager: Jim McConville; 222-0100  
*Question:* No difficulty staffing

**Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion Lifeguards**

Start.....\$6.00  
2nd & 3rd..... 6.50  
4th ..... 7.00  
5th ..... 7.50  
6th ..... 8.00  
Head Guard (2) range from..... 10.00 to 12.00  
Beach Manager season salary .....\$11,900  
Crew size = 26; rotate beach and pool  
Beach Manager: Mary George; 229-5926  
*Question:* Had difficulty staffing; short about 2 guards for the season

**Monmouth County Park System Lifeguards  
(Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch)**

Start.....\$7.10  
Annual increment..... +.50/hr.  
Rank increment..... +.25/hr.  
Lieutenants (4) 2000 average..... 8.95  
Beach Captains (2) 2000 average ..... 9.73  
Crew Captain (1) typical..... 10.85  
Lifeguard Supervisor ..... 14.00  
Crew size = 21  
Lifeguard Supervisor: Spike Fowler; 229-0924; voice mail 842-4000 ext. 4470  
*Question:* Had difficulty staffing; short 1 guard for most of season

**Promenade Beach Club, Long Branch**

Declined to participate  
Head Guard Anthony Sciarillo; 483-0500

**City of Long Branch Lifeguards**

Flexible hiring range.....\$6.50  
2nd and beyond; flex range to maximum .... 8.20  
Beach Captains (7)..... 8.10 to 9.00  
Head Lifeguard ..... 9.00  
Wages go up annually. There is flexibility in wage steps based on experience and performance.  
Crew size = 35  
Beachfront Manager: Wally Smith; Head Lifeguard: Rick Stimpson; 571-6528  
*Question:* Had great difficulty staffing; short 2 to 4 guards for the season

**Borough of Deal Lifeguards  
(Deal Casino & W. Stanley Conover Pavilion)**

Start.....\$7.25  
2nd ..... 8.00  
3rd ..... 8.25  
4th ..... 8.50  
5th ..... 8.75  
Crew Chief (2) ..... 9.50  
Assistant Captain (1)..... 10.50  
Captain (1) ..... 11.00  
Superintendent of Beaches annual salary (12 months)  
Crew size = 20 including part-time  
Superintendent: Brandan Kelly; 531-1519; Deal Casino 531-8800  
*Question:* Had some difficulty staffing; short 1 guard for part of season

**Village of Loch Arbour Lifeguards**

Start.....\$6.75  
Annual increment +.50/hr. to maximum..... 8.50  
Captain (range) ..... 9.00 to 10.00  
Lifeguard Supervisor (range)..... 10.00 to 11.00  
Crew Size = 4 full time; include 1 split position  
Beach Supervisor/Manager: Rick Lister  
Borough Clerk: Lorraine Carafa: 531-4740  
*Question:* Had difficulty staffing; were short approximately 2 guards for part of season

**Ocean Grove Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.75
2nd .....	7.75
3rd .....	8.25
4th plus.....	8.75
EMT (12).....	+1.00/hr.
Lieutenant (1) range.....	8.50 to 9.50
Captain (3) range .....	9.50 to 11.00

Require defibrillator certification plus CPR or EMT

Crew Size = 33 including part-time

Beachfront Supervisor: Dave Shotwell, Jr.; 988-5533

*Question:* No difficulty staffing; had 8 tryout for 4 positions; based on heavy recruiting efforts

**Borough of Bradley Beach Lifeguards**

1st.....	\$6.80
2nd .....	7.50
3rd .....	8.00
4th .....	8.50
5th .....	8.75
Captain (7) .....	9.40
Assistant Chief.....	11.00

Beach Manager/Lifeguard Supervisor: season salary \$13,000

Crew Size = 40 including part-time

Beach Manager/Lifeguard Supervisor: Richard Johnson; 776-2990

*Question:* No difficulty staffing

**Borough of Avon-by-the-Sea Lifeguards**

1st.....	\$7.25
2nd .....	7.88
3rd .....	8.50
4th .....	9.00
Beach Captain.....	9.50
Assistant Chief Lifeguard .....	10.63

Beach Supervisor/Borough Administrator; Annual salary (12 months)

Crew size = 33

Beach Office; 502-4507

Borough Administrator/Chief Lifeguard: Tim Gallagher; 502-4510, ext. 236

*Question:* No difficulty staffing; 18 applicants for 4 positions

**Borough of Belmar Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$7.00
2nd .....	7.50
3rd .....	8.00
4th .....	8.50
5th .....	9.00
Lieutenants (6).....	9.75
Beach Captains (6).....	10.25
Lifeguard Supervisor; Annual salary (12 month police contract)	
Crew size = 80 including part-time	
Lifeguard Supervisor/Belmar Police Sergeant: Harry Harsin; Assistant Supervisors Ray Elms & Bill Karatz; Lifeguard headquarters: 280-9110	
<i>Question:</i> No difficulty staffing	

**Borough of Spring Lake Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$7.71
2nd & 3rd.....	8.95
4th & 5th.....	9.62
6th and beyond.....	10.96
Crew Chiefs (5).....	11.62
Captain (1) .....	13.49
First Aid Certification.....	+ .17/hr.
EMT Certification.....	+ .43/hr.
Beachfront manager; season salary approximately \$14,400	
Crew Size = 65	
Spring Lake Lifeguards are union; contract expires December 31, 2002	
Lifeguard Captain Joe Fitzsimmons; Beachfront Manager: Dan Finn; 449-8005	
<i>Question:</i> Had difficulty staffing; were short approximately 3 guards for most of the season	

**Borough of Sea Girt Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$7.70
2nd .....	8.10
3rd .....	8.30
4th .....	8.70
5th .....	9.40
Crew Chief.....	10.50
Lifeguard Chief; season salary base .....\$9,500	
Beachfront Manager; season salary .....\$13,000	
Crew size = 45 including part-time	
Beachfront Manager: Jim Freda; Lifeguard Chief: Tim Harmon; 449-9335	
<i>Question:</i> No difficulty staffing	

**Borough of Manasquan Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.75
2nd .....	8.00
3rd and beyond .....	9.26
Lieutenants (4) .....	9.84
Captain (1) .....	10.42
Lifeguard Chief; season salary .....	\$8,269
Beachfront Manager; season salary	
Crew size = 53	
Beachfront Manager; Gary Chapman; Lifeguard Chief: Art Harmon; 223-2514	
<i>Question:</i> No difficulty staffing	

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**OCEAN COUNTY**

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**Borough of Bay Head Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.00
2nd .....	7.00
3rd .....	8.00
4th .....	9.00
5th .....	10.00
6th and beyond.....	11.00

Assistant Superintendent/Head Lifeguard; season salary approx. \$7,000  
Crew size = 20 including part-time  
Head Lifeguard Hank Handchen; 892-7076  
*Question:* No difficulty staffing

**Ortley Beach Lifeguards (Dover Township)**

Start.....	\$6.63
2nd .....	6.88
3rd .....	7.13
4th .....	7.38
5th .....	7.63
6th .....	7.88
7th .....	8.13
8th .....	8.38
9th .....	8.63
10th .....	8.88
Sergeants (3) .....	10.00
Lieutenants (2) .....	11.00
Captain (1) .....	13.38
Beach Supervisor .....	15.25

Crew size = 31  
Beach Supervisor Pete Bush; Lifeguard Captain: Chris Johnson; 793-3890  
*Question:* No difficulty staffing

**Borough of Lavallette Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$8.00
2nd .....	8.25
3rd .....	8.50
4th .....	8.75
5th .....	9.00
6th .....	9.25
7th .....	9.50
8th .....	9.75
9th .....	10.00
10th .....	10.25

Squad Leaders (3); on step

Lieutenants (2); weekly salary; \$525/week for 12 weeks

Beach Manager/Captain (1); \$630/week for 15 week season

Crew size = 26, includes 2 guards for bayfront beach.

Beach Manager/Captain : Jim Cresbaugh; 793-2566

*Question:* Had difficulty staffing; were short 6 guards for first part of the season

**Borough of Seaside Heights Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$7.00
2nd .....	7.25
3rd .....	7.50
4th .....	7.75
5th .....	8.00
6th .....	8.75
7th .....	9.00
8th .....	9.25
9th .....	9.50
10th .....	9.75

Sergeants (2)..... 10.63

Lieutenants (1 part-time) ..... 11.25

Captain (1)..... \$13.50

Max out at 10 steps, but receive longevity increment of \$5.00/hr. at the 15th year of service.

Crew size = 45

Captain: Al Aires; 793-4646; 793-7997 (fax)

*Question:* Had difficulty staffing; were sort 6 to 8 guards for most of the season

**Borough of Seaside Park Lifeguards**

Start.....	\$6.75
2nd .....	7.00
3rd .....	7.25
4th .....	7.50
5th .....	7.75
6th .....	8.00
7th .....	8.25
10th .....	8.75
Sergeants (6) .....	9.50
Lieutenant/Assistant Beach Director (1) ...	12.13
Captain/Beach Director (1).....	\$15.00
Crew size = 50, including part-time	
Captain : Joe Gomulka; 830-2100	
<i>Question:</i> No difficulty staffing	

**Island Beach State Park Lifeguards**

Lifeguard 1.....	\$7.00
Lifeguard 2.....	7.50
Lifeguard 3.....	8.00
Senior Lifeguard 1 .....	8.50
Senior Lifeguard 2 .....	9.00
Senior Lifeguard 3 .....	9.50
Sergeants (6)	
Sergeant 1 .....	10.50
Sergeant 2 .....	11.00
Sergeant 3 .....	11.50
Lieutenants (2)	
Lieutenant 1 .....	12.00
Lieutenant 2 .....	12.50
Lieutenant 3 .....	13.00
Water Safety Supervisor I.....	14.00
Water Safety Supervisor II .....	14.50
Water Safety Supervisor III.....	15.00
Crew Size = 54 + 6 part time	
North/South Lieutenants Chip Bruce & Spike Eddy; Water Safety Supervisor Jim Handschuch; 793-0506	
<i>Question:</i> Had difficulty staffing; short approximately 4 guards for most of season	

**Ship Bottom Beach Patrol**

Start.....\$7.26  
2nd .....7.98  
3rd .....8.45  
4th (senior guard range).....8.93 to 9.52  
Lieutenants (2); 1999 average .....\$5,000 season salary  
Chief Beach Supervisor .....\$11,000 season salary  
Crew size = 32  
Chief Beach Supervisor Jim Blomquist; (609) 494-9481  
*Question:* No difficulty staffing

**Long Beach Township Beach Patrol**

Step 1 .....\$7.25  
Step 2 .....7.50  
Step 3 .....7.75  
Step 4 .....8.25  
Step 5 .....8.75  
Step 6 .....9.25  
Step 7 .....9.75  
Assistant Lieutenant.....10.51  
Lieutenants (6).....12.76  
Captains (6).....16.52  
Assistant Chiefs (2).....18.02  
Chiefs (2) - North/South.....21.02  
Lifeguards receive a daily wage of 6.66 times hourly rate  
Crew Size = 180 including part-time; 55 beaches including 3 bay beaches  
Beach Manager/Lifeguard Supervisor: Don Myers: (609) 361-1200  
*Question:* No difficulty staffing

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**CAPE MAY COUNTY**

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**Margate City Beach Patrol**

Start.....	\$6.89
2nd .....	7.36
3rd .....	7.80
4th .....	8.26
5th .....	8.61
6th .....	8.91
7th .....	9.26
8th .....	9.57
9th .....	9.94
10th = step 9 + .....	1.00
11th = step 9 + .....	2.00
12th = step 9 + .....	3.00
Lieutenant .....	11.50
Captain (2) .....	off contract
Chief (1).....	off contract

Above wages are contract for 1999; 2000 contract under development and when settled will be retroactive to beginning of season.

Incentive bonus: \$3.00/day if season total = 50 days or > and includes Labor Day

Chief Lifeguard Richard Kugel; (609) 822-2370

*Question:* No difficulty staffing; had 30 applicants for 5 full-time and 4 part-time positions.

**City of Ocean City Beach Patrol**

Start.....	\$8.15
2nd & 3rd.....	8.50
4th & 5th.....	9.00
6th & 7th.....	9.50
8th & 9th.....	10.25
10th to 12th.....	11.00
13th to 15th.....	12.00
16th to 18th.....	12.25
19th to 20th.....	12.50
<b>Senior Guard Steps</b>	
Step 1.....	12.62
Step 2.....	12.75
Step 3.....	13.02
Step 4.....	13.94
Step 5.....	15.85
<b>Lieutenant Steps</b>	
Step 1.....	17.08
Step 2.....	17.75
Senior Lieutenant.....	17.75 + \$2,500 stipend
Assistant Captain Salary.....	\$15,500
Captain Salary.....	\$19,917

Crew size = 130 full time

Beach Manager; Ollie Muzslay, (609) 525-9200

*Question:* No difficulty staffing; had twice the number of applicants for openings

**North Wildwood Beach Patrol**

Start.....	\$6.75
2nd .....	7.13
3rd .....	7.63
4th .....	7.75
5th .....	7.88
6th .....	8.00
7th .....	8.13
8th .....	8.50
9th .....	8.75
10th .....	9.38
Sergeants (4) .....	10.63
Medics (2) .....	10.63
Lieutenants:	
1 to 3 .....	10.88
4 to 6 .....	11.13
7 to 9 .....	11.50
10 + .....	11.88
Captain.....	12.25

Bonus: \$2.00/day if work through Labor Day

Crew size = 65

North Wildwood beaches are free

Chief Lifeguard (year 'round position w/recreation); season salary, Tony Cavalier;  
(609) 522-7500

Question: No difficulty staffing

**City of Cape May Beach Patrol**

Start.....	\$6.76
2nd .....	6.86
3rd .....	7.03
4th .....	7.28
5th .....	7.53
6th .....	7.76
7th .....	7.97
8th .....	8.13
9th .....	8.45
10th .....	8.61
10 + .....	10.06
Lieutenants (4)	
Lieutenant 1 & 2 .....	11.69
Lieutenant 3 & 4 .....	12.33
Lieutenant 5 & 6 .....	12.97
Lieutenant 7 & 8 .....	13.62
Lieutenant 8 + .....	14.63

Beach Supervisor; \$30,000 for 6 months

Cape May Beach Patrol unionized in August, 1999. Contract is for a 48 hour week with no overtime, and an annual increment of 3% for the next 4 years.

Crew Size = 75 including part-time

Senior Lieutenant Harry Back, Senior Staff Member Gene Ladd; Beach Manager/Lifeguard Supervisor: Buzz Mogck; (609) 884-9520

*Question:* No difficulty staffing

MF/