

WRPA Aquatic Network Survey 2022

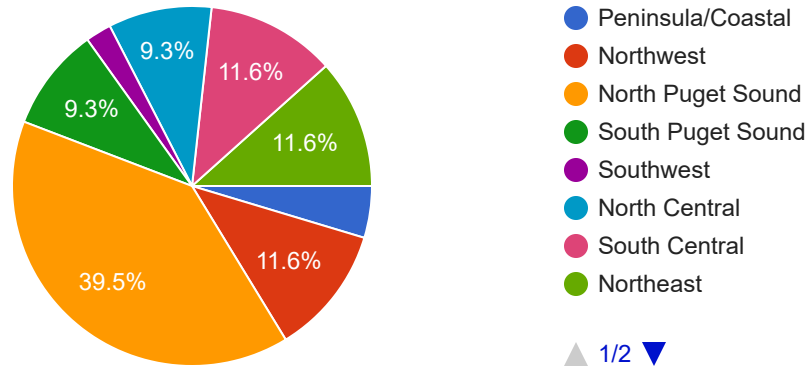
43 responses

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In what region of the state is your operation located?

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43 responses

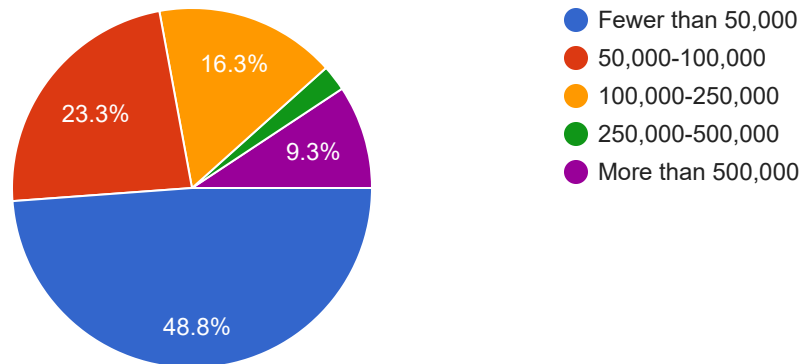


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How large is the community that you serve?

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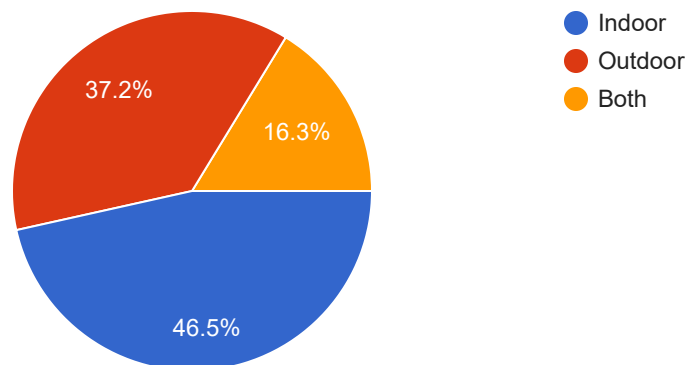
43 responses



What type of aquatic facility/facilities do you operate?

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43 responses



What are the biggest challenges facing your aquatic operation at this time?

40 responses

Staffing

staffing

We don't have an aquatic facility because it was over 60 years old and finally died last summer, so we are in the process of building a new one.

Seasonal Pool - Swim Lessons always full - getting guards to learn how to teach lessons

Daytime staff

swim lessons and opening up early

staffing, fair salary for highly trained aquatic staff

Staffing

Old facility that needs to be up-dated to align with today's customer expectations.

always finding and training staff

Staff Shortage both lifeguards and lesson instructors

Building Age

Staffing. Level of. Missing the 3-5 year employees.

aging facility, updates needed, high demand for additional aquatic facilities, staffing needs

Seasonal staffing and ongoing maintenance issues

Intolerant Patrons - short tempered

Consistent staffing

Staffing - we have enough lifeguards but most are high school with limited availability

staffing concerns, maintenance concerns and increasing demand

Staffing, minimum wage, aging facility

space



Yearly Staffing/Instructors.

Staffing, maintaining guard focus/training, irate members

Financial and age of facility

- 1) Scheduling certification/re-certification courses during & after the season
- 2) Fear of finding/retaining staff (we've been fortunate the last several years, but each year staffing level concerns are daunting)
- 3) Balancing community programming desires/demands with aquatic facility operational availability

Hiring

Staffing both for lifeguards but also lifeguards who can teach upper level swim lessons.

Post Covid our customers seem much more difficult to work with- some kids seem to have complete lack of respect for the staff and believe the "rules don't apply to them" while many of their parents are oblivious to what their children are doing, if they are even at the swimming pool. Common sense and courtesy by both youth and adults, is not so common these days.

staffing

Low staffing & retention

Meeting the needs of all of our programming groups; staffing/staff availability; aging facility, including capital campaign for new facility. As an indoor pool facility & a park & rec district, we don't qualify for many of the available grants.

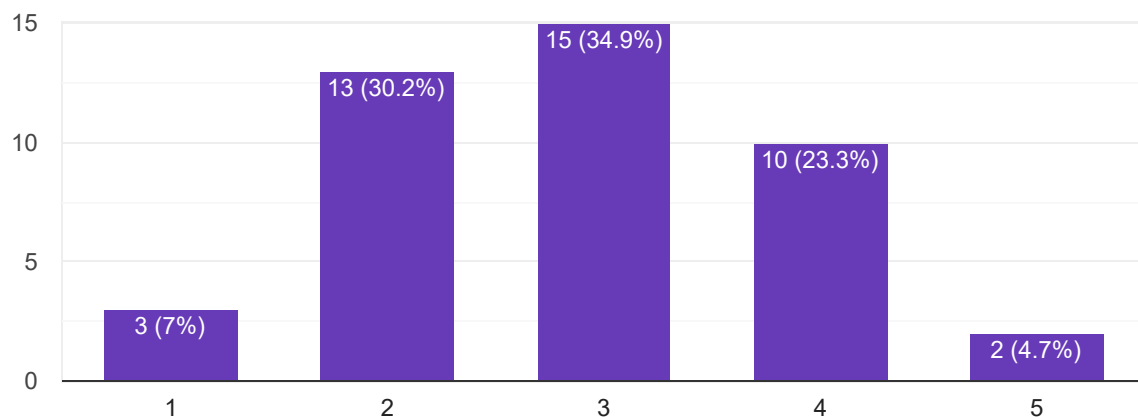
Staffing, of course; second would be training availability

staffing, failure to follow the instructions of the guards

How involved do you consider yourself to be with WRPA?

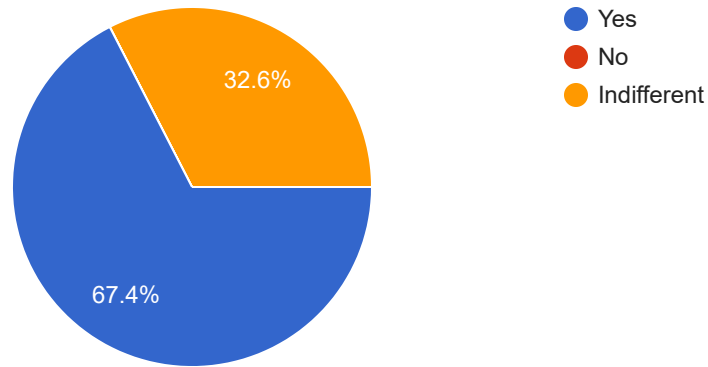


43 responses



The aquatics network is considering bringing back the annual Skill Builder. In years past, this one-day event took place at an aquatic facility where both in-water and classroom instruction could take place. It was primarily focused on seasonal staff and lead guards. Do you think it's worthwhile for the network to bring this event back in 2023?

43 responses



Skill Builder feedback



Why did you answer "No" or "Indifferent"?

12 responses

In the past the skill builder was always held on the west side of the state during a time that we are still working on hiring all of our staff. It is difficult to make it over so it isn't really useful to us.

Usually these take place on the West side of the state, and it is hard to make one day worth the drive

We have seasonal staff so we won't be participating, but I do not want to say no just because of that knowing there are year round pools in Washington

Some staff find this training helpful, but more experienced staff struggle to find the value.

i probably wouldn't send staff, just too difficult at that time of year. but i believe it is a good opportunity for training part-time staff.

Our difficulties with scheduling may make attending an event like this very challenging.

I work two jobs so taking a day off for this would be difficult

Don't know enough about it and location that it takes place at would make a big difference as to whether or not I thought it was worthwhile

timing is challenging for onboarding & training our team. if it's early, our team is not assembled/available yet. if it's later, we are focused on our own training

We have a different training system that most (Y-USA) and we aren't seasonal

For our city, we are a summer program only, so I don't have any lifeguards available to attend.

We are a small Community; staff would have to travel and travel often does not work well with their schedule. We already meet as a team once a month for 3 hours and do both in water and out of water.



Would a different type of collaborative training opportunity be more helpful to you and your staff?

8 responses

Possibly

due to seasonal staff I am not sure if there would - potentially virtual aquatic leadership classes would be good

Unsure, we also have difficulty scheduling our own staff trainings.

Not at this time

supplemental training for non-guarding skills like leadership development could be very helpful, since the more technical skills can be more site-specific. Sometimes the soft skills like customer service, leadership, or professionalism are neglected in training because they aren't required, or training time is short, or administration doesn't feel qualified or equipped to teach them well.

lifeguard games/olympics

Possibly?

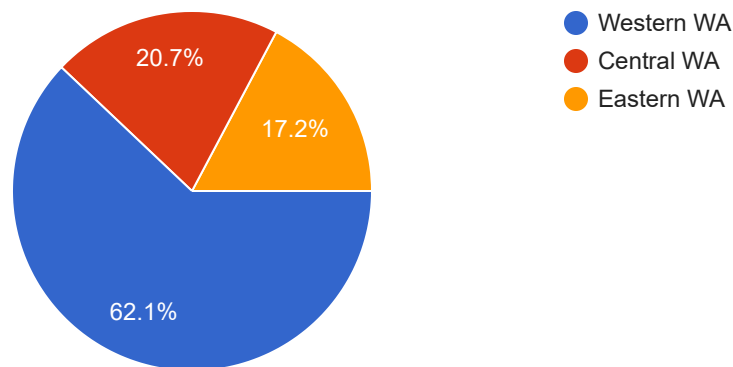
Virtual training

Skill Builder Details

Which location would make it the most likely you could attend or send staff to a spring Skill Builder?

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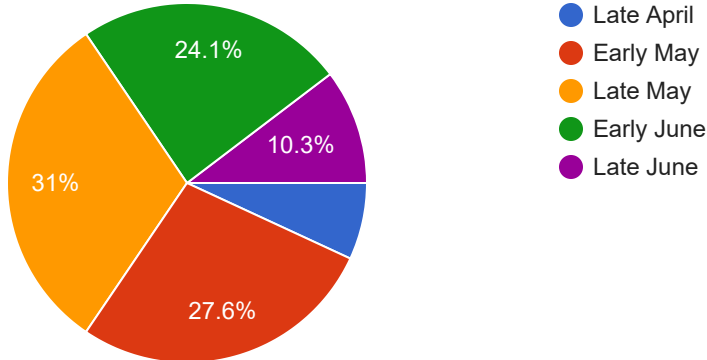
29 responses



Which time frame would make the Skill Builder most feasible for your team?



29 responses



What are the biggest challenges for Skill Builder attendance for your organization?

25 responses

Location. If it's not in the Spokane area then we won't be able to participate.

Travel

scheduling

School and sports

decent speaker/trainer

Budget and timing. If it's during finals week, I wouldn't expect any of my student employees to go.

dates and times that allow for college age staff to attend

Staff availability

Potential Costs

staffing

Staff to cover while others are gone. I'd close facility if enough notice.

Budget cost & transportation

We do not hire the lifeguards directly, we would have to get approval from the YMCA to send them (our contract partner)

logistics, getting staff there and back

Not having all staff hired or available and ready to go to the class

Getting staff involved and excited. Scheduling

Guards are still in school and sporting activities

100% the availability of our seasonal staff and seasonal management. School's (both K-12 and Universities) are in session through early May and sometimes until mid-June making the scheduling of all seasonal staff/management difficult for all to attend.

Goldendale, WA is a small city, 3,200 people approximately 70 miles to Yakima, or 100 miles from Vancouver and or the Tri Cities. Thus traveling more than 2 to 3 hours one way, makes it difficult to attend, especially if I am to bring staff with me, especially budget wise if we have to stay overnight



Finding available time to be gone for a day or two, while insuring the swimming pool is properly staffed.

Possibly have an Eastern Washington or Central WA skill builder; and then one on the "west side"

Finding enough coverage to keep the pool open while we take staff to the training.

get approval to send staff

We have a lot of high school staff (scheduling conflicts).

Pricing/budget constraints, staff availability.

Cost and ability to get away

timing of havng our staff hired

Final Feedback



Do you have any other feedback or suggestions to share with the WRPA Aquatics Network?

16 responses

not at this time

No

Not at this time.

If we could push up or back the meetings - they are scheduled the same time as the NRPA Aquatic meetings

As far as Skill Builder, late April or early May work best

NA

Water aerobics training

Just a thank you for all the work during COVID

Communication can often be challenging with this group if you're not attending every meeting. I am looking forward the newsletter option.

Better communication with resources and events taking place in the state or specific region well in advance to plan around our outdoor aquatic season.

Because my city runs a small summer beach lifeguard program, I enjoy learning about other cities and their summer lifeguard programs through the WRPA Aquatic Network.

Thank you for being here!

this reminder was good, more reminders ...

no

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