The Ocean City Beach Patrol is a division of the Department of Emergency Services and includes over 200 men and women who are dedicated to maintaining a safe and orderly environment along the ten miles of Ocean City's beautiful beaches. We have designed this brochure to answer some commonly asked questions and to help you gain a better understanding of the Ocean City Beach Patrol and the requirements to become a member of our professional organization. We encourage you to contact us if you do not find answers to your questions.

No Previous Certification or Experience Required

Ocean/Surf Rescue is significantly more challenging and rewarding than pool or lake guarding. It is also true that the OCBP requires NO CERTIFICATION to be eligible for employment. However, candidates can be assured that all necessary skills, techniques, procedures and protocols will be taught to them as part of our Surf Rescue Academy; a 9 day paid training program conducted by Beach Patrol instructors with support from other public safety agencies followed by 3 weeks of supervised, on-the-job probation. Because of the uniqueness of the job's demands, the Beach Patrol does not accept or compensate for certification or prior experience with other agencies.

What's an SRT?

SRT stands for Surf Rescue Technician. This is the title earned by the men and women who have demonstrated competency in the techniques and skills required for surf rescue. The SRT's duties include educating the public, warning swimmers of potential dangers, rescuing distressed swimmers, responding to emergency situations, administering First Aid, reuniting lost individuals, enforcing city ordinances, and other duties as assigned. The Beach Patrol is on duty every day from 10:00 - 5:30 starting the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continuing 7 days a week through the third Sunday after Labor Day. An SRT works 43.5 hours a week with days off. Additional hours are available to SRTs once they are off probation.

What Criteria Must I Meet To Become Eligible For The Surf Rescue Academy?

We are looking for athletic, ambitious and responsible men and women who are 16* years of age or older. Every candidate must be able to perform the following tasks: Run in soft sand; swim in ocean water, enter and exit the ocean through the surf, move an unconscious person of 150 lbs., see for 400 meters, hear and locate a whistle blast from 300 meters, speak and read the English language. Inability to perform these tasks will result in disqualification from the testing process. Unsuccessful candidates may attempt the test on future dates without penalty. All necessary training for the job is provided by the Ocean City Beach Patrol during Surf Rescue Academy. Prior to entering Academy, each candidate must pass a vigorous, physical test consisting of the following phases in succession.

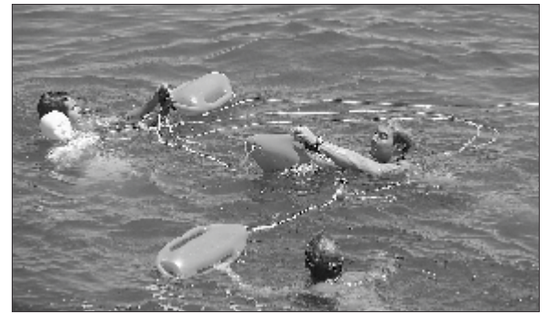
- Produce proof of age identification before registering at the test site.*
- Demonstrate the ability to understand and to speak English.
- Complete a 300m soft sand sprint in less than 65 seconds.
- Complete a 500m swim in less than 10 minutes.
- Complete a series of simulated rescues using the rescue buoy (after instruction, demonstration and practice).
- Complete a medley of 150m run, 100m swim and 150m run.
- Demonstrate the ability to drag an SRT (lifeguard) stand a distance of 20m.
- Perform basic lifesaving holds and releases in a controlled water setting after instruction and practice time.
- Complete a personal interview.
- Prove employment eligibility: U. S. Citizenship or Work Authorization. (I-9)
- Provide references which relate to employability and demonstrate prior successful work experience in any line of work.
- For a detailed description and photos of testing go to www.ococean.com/ocbp

*NOTE: If you are 16 or 17 years old, a parent or guardian must be present and remain during the test and a work permit must be supplied prior to entering Surf Rescue Academy. You must be 17 years old to enter Surf Rescue Academy.

If I Pass the Test, What Training Will I Receive?

After passing all phases of the pre-employment physical skills evaluation, the candidate will be appointed to Surf Rescue Academy on a probationary basis. While in Academy, the candidate will receive instruction in open water rescue techniques, Beach Patrol policies and procedures, basic oceanography, use of rescue equipment, First Aid, CPR, semaphore communications (a series of signals using flags) radio protocol and physical training consistent with the demands of the job. Successful completion of all phases of Surf Rescue Academy is required to earn SRT rank.

All phases of Surf Rescue Academy must be completed in succession as determined by the coordinator of training. Candidates receiving an appointment will have several Surf Rescue Academies to choose from beginning the week before Memorial Day and as late as the 3rd full week in June.



Beach Patrol Positions

While in Surf Rescue Academy/Probation
You are paid while you learn the skills, techniques, procedures and protocols of the OCBP. After completing the Academy, you will have the opportunity to work with different crews, in different areas of the beach, while working toward completing the requirements of the probationary period. **$13.29/hr -** 2016 rate

SRT I Step 1
You are promoted once all Surf Rescue Technician probation criteria are met. This can be completed in as few as 21 days following successful completion of the Academy. **$14.65/hr -** 2016 rate

SRT I Assistant Crew Chief
This is a leadership training position that can be available as soon as your second year. Second year employees are also eligible for specialized training and assignments operating rescue watercraft and ATV's. **$15.39/hr -** 2016 rate

SRT II Crew Chief
In as few as three years, veterans can qualify to hold leadership positions on the beach. **$16.96/hr -** 2016 rate

A rookie SRT who enters Academy in late May and works a normal schedule through the end of September can earn $12,000.00 for the season, or over $650.00 per week.*

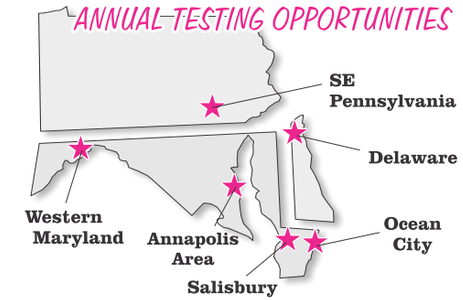
* The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to adjust pay rates and available positions.

Although testing for the OCBP is offered on a walk-in basis, we strongly encourage candidates to visit our web site to register for a test and to get information about a particular location. Once registered, you will receive correspondence including any updates to the testing schedule. Since we suspend testing once all positions are filled, we encourage you to select an early test date. If you are unable to attend any of these dates, keep in contact with the Beach Patrol to learn of possible additional testing dates.

(410) 289-7556

Ocean City Beach Patrol is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Annual Testing Opportunities



The Beach Patrol will conduct tests at some of the sites indicated above according to our staffing needs. Please check our web site at www.ococean.com/ocbp or call Beach Patrol Headquarters at 410-289-7556 for the latest information on testing opportunities as well as information regarding specific venues or e-mail oceancitymd.gov for information.

In-Season Testing

The Beach Patrol will conduct final testing for each coming summer in early June with training scheduled to begin the 3rd week of June. Please check our website for the most up-to-date testing schedule.
www.ococean.com/ocbp

Registration for all tests conducted in Ocean City will be held at Dorchester Street and the Boardwalk.

NOT AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER? SECURE YOUR APPOINTMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMMER BEGINNING IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR!!

The OCBP will be conducting tests at the end of this summer, in August or September for next year. Please check our website for the most current testing schedule for next summer.
www.ococean.com/ocbp

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