



Suffolk County Legislature

Office of Legislator _____



BE POOL SMART CAMPAIGN

POSTER CONTEST

Contest Rules

Each participating student should create a poster with the title "Be Pool Smart." The poster should creatively illustrate one or more of the ten safety tips to prevent accidental drowning. The winning poster will be used as the cover to next year's brochure.

Please be sure to add the following information to your poster:

- ❖ Name
- ❖ Age
- ❖ Grade
- ❖ School
- ❖ Teacher's Name

* Please use white poster board or paper no larger than 22" x 30".

Entry Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2026

March 3, 2026

Dear Superintendent,

I am pleased to extend an invitation to your elementary school students to participate in the Suffolk County Legislature's "Be Pool Smart" poster contest. Resolution Number 927-2007 directs the Legislature to hold this campaign and poster contest annually, which promotes the importance of pool safety.

Please distribute the enclosed contest flyers to your elementary school students, to be used as teaching tools. I will judge the poster entries and select a finalist from each school district. One poster, also chosen by me, will represent my Legislative District. The poster will be submitted to the Office of the Presiding Officer, and he will then present all the winning posters to the Budget Review Office, which will select the poster to be used as part of a countywide message to be disseminated by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

In addition, the 1st place student winner of the contest will be presented with a proclamation, and a press release and photo will be distributed to local newspapers in order to help celebrate his/her accomplishment. All participating students from my Legislative District will be acknowledged with a certificate of achievement from my office.

If you choose to participate in the contest, please submit the "Be Pool Smart" posters by May 1st to my District Office located at 725 Veterans Memorial Highway (Building 17), Hauppauge, NY 11788. I have enclosed a copy of Resolution 927-2007, contest flyers, and recent year's winning pamphlets to help describe the program. Please feel free to call my office if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kennedy
Suffolk County Legislator

RESOLUTION NO. 927 -2007, ESTABLISHING A "BE POOL SMART" PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE POOL SAFETY

WHEREAS, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury related deaths of children between the ages of one (1) and fourteen (14) nationwide, and the third leading cause of injury-related deaths of children in New York. On average, 350 children under the age of five (5) years old drown in swimming pools each year and another 2,600 children under the age of five (5) are treated in hospitals for near-drowning accidents; and

WHEREAS, near-drownings have a high case fatality rate with fifteen (15%) percent of children admitted for near-drowning dying in the hospital and as many as twenty (20%) percent of near-drowning survivors suffering severe, permanent neurological damage; and

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk should take all possible steps to improve swimming pool safety and to educate residents who have pools of the safety measures they can take to protect children against accidental drownings; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the office of the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature shall conduct an annual "Be Pool Smart" campaign in elementary level schools throughout the County of Suffolk, inviting students to participate in a poster contest requiring a student's interpretation of what can be done to protect children and families against accidental pool drownings; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that each Legislator shall send letters and a copy of the pool safety pamphlet, published pursuant to the 5th RESOLVED clause of this Resolution, to the Superintendents of public school districts, located within their pertinent legislative district, advising the school as to the contest; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that each Legislator shall judge entries made by elementary schools and recommend one (1) winner from each school as a finalist. A Legislator from each district shall then recommend to the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature one (1) poster to represent their legislative district; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the deadline for submitting eligible posters shall be April 30th of each year beginning with the year 2008; the Legislative Office of Budget Review shall then select the winning poster, which shall be announced by the Presiding Officer at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Legislature in June each year; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that any student requesting to participate in said contest shall be furnished with a pamphlet from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services regarding pool safety tips, which pamphlet shall contain information and safety procedures developed by the Suffolk County Pool Safety Task Force, and any other relevant organization dedicated to pool safety, to protect children from accidental drownings; and be it further

6th RESOLVED, that said pamphlet shall be disseminated by the County Department of Health Services no later than March 1st each year, and, except in the year 2008,

the design on said pamphlet's cover shall contain an image of the preceding year's "Be Pool Smart" campaign winning poster; and be it further

7th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

DATED: September 20, 2007

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 26, 2007

Signs of Drowning

Drowning victims do not usually scream or wave their arms. Signs of drowning include:

- Head low in the water, mouth at water level;
- Head tilted back with mouth open;
- Eyes closed or glassy and empty, unable to focus;
- Hair over forehead or eyes;
- Not using legs, vertical position;
- Hyperventilating or gasping;
- Trying to swim but not making headway;
- Trying to roll over to their backs;
- Appearing to be climbing on an invisible ladder.

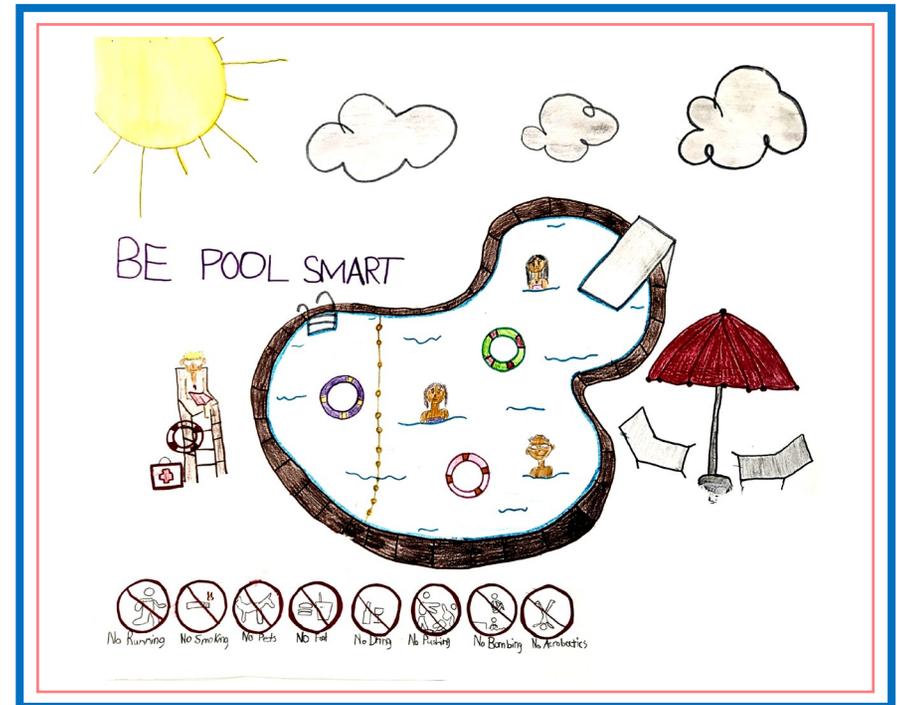
Suffolk County
Department of Health Services
3500 Sunrise Highway Ste. 124
Great River, NY 11739-9006
SCDHSweb@suffolkcountyny.gov

Follow us:
suffolkcountyny.gov
[Facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealth](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealth)
[Instagram.com/SuffolkHealth](https://www.instagram.com/SuffolkHealth)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Prevent Drowning



"Be Pool Smart" Poster Contest Winner 2025
Amelia Torres, Grade 1; Teacher: Ms. Oddman
Cordello Avenue Elementary School, Central Islip, NY



Suffolk County

Edward P. Romaine
County Executive

Suffolk County Legislature

Gregson H. Pigott, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health Services



Pool Safety Laws

New York State law requires that residential swimming pools be equipped with an approved pool alarm, unless the pool is equipped with an automatic power safety cover. The pool must be enclosed within a fence or other barrier that is at least four feet high and can be entered only through self-closing and self-latching doors or gates. Suction outlets must be protected against user entrapment.

Current codes can be found on the NYS Department of State website. Contact your local municipality for additional code and zoning requirements.

Did you know?

- Ten people die from drowning each day in the United States.
- About one in five people who die from drowning are children ages 14 and under.
- Among children ages one to four, most drown in home swimming pools.
- Three out of ten deaths in children aged one to four are caused by drowning.
- Most young children who drown have been out of a caretaker's sight for less than five minutes.
- For every child under 15 years old who dies from drowning in a pool, another 10 are rushed to the emergency room for near drowning.
- When victims nearly drown, their brains are deprived of oxygen, which can cause damage and affect a person's ability to function.
- The good news is that drowning can be prevented.

Tips to Prevent Drowning

- Young children can drown in a few inches of water. A child younger than five years of age should always be within arm's reach when near water.
- Because drowning occurs quickly and quietly, adults should not be involved in any other distracting activity (such as reading or talking on the phone) while supervising children.
- If you leave the pool area, even for a minute, take your children with you.
- Learn to Swim. Formal swimming lessons can protect adults and children from drowning. However, even when children have had lessons, constant supervision is needed.
- Teach older children to always swim with a buddy and where lifeguards are on duty.
- Don't use air-filled or foam devices in place of life jackets. These toys are not designed to keep swimmers safe.
- When the pool is not in use, remove the steps and take all toys away from the pool area.
- Keep a first aid kit stocked and available near the pool.
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 and how to get help in an emergency. Make sure children know their address.
- Keep a cell phone in the pool area in case of emergency.
- Obtain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could save someone's life.



Señales de Ahogamiento

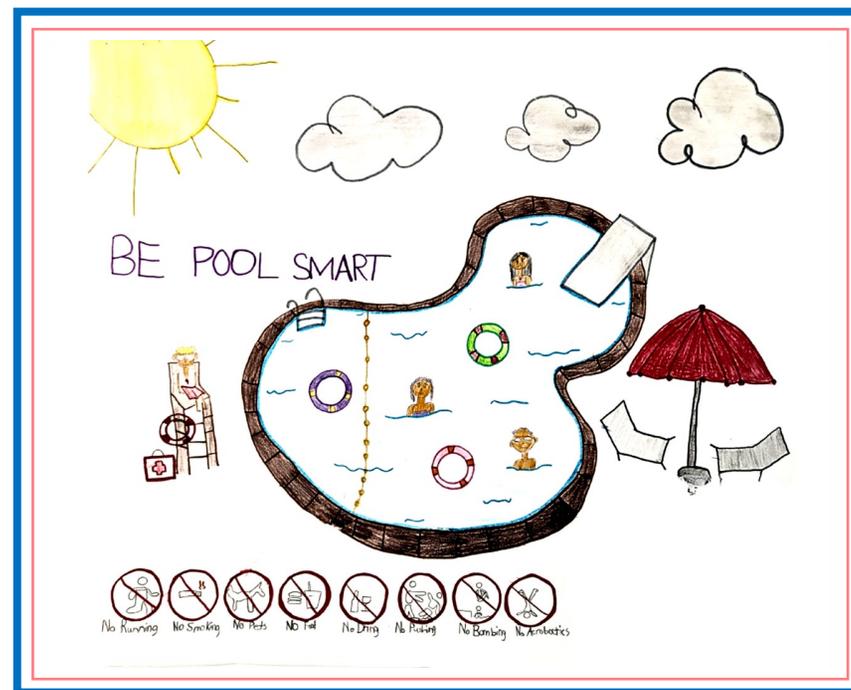
- Las víctimas de ahogamiento generalmente no gritan ni mueven los brazos. Las señales de ahogamiento incluyen:
- La cabeza baja en el agua, la boca a nivel del agua;
- La cabeza inclinada hacia atrás con la boca abierta;
- Los ojos cerrados O vidriosos y vacíos, incapacidad para focalizar;
- El cabello sobre la frente u ojos;
- No usa las piernas, en posición vertical;
- Hiperventilación o jadeos;
- Intenta nadar pero no avanza;
- Intenta voltearse sobre la espalda;
- Parece estar subiendo una escalera invisible.

Condado de Suffolk
Departamento de Servicios de Salud
3500 Sunrise Highway Ste. 124
Great River, NY 11739-9006
SCDHSweb@suffolkcountyny.gov

Síguenos
suffolkcountyny.gov
[Facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealthServices](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealthServices)
[Instagram.com/SuffolkHealth](https://www.instagram.com/SuffolkHealth)



Prevengamos los Ahogamientos



Ganador del concurso de carteles "Be Pool Smart" 2025
Amelia Torres, grado 1; Profesor: Sra. Oddman
Escuela Primaria Cordello Avenue, Central Islip, Nueva York



Condado de Suffolk

Edward P. Romaine
Director Ejecutivo del Condado
Legislatura del Condado de Suffolk
Gregson H. Pigott, MD, MPH
Comisionado de Servicios de Salud



Leyes de Seguridad en las Piscinas

La ley del Estado de Nueva York exige que todas las piscinas construidas estén equipadas con una alarma de piscina aprobada, a menos que esté equipada con una cubierta de seguridad automática. También deben estar encerradas dentro de una valla u otra barrera que mida por lo menos cuatro pies de altura, y que las entradas sean con puertas de cerraduras que cierran solas. Las salidas de succión deben estar protegidas contra el atrapamiento del usuario. Para obtener información adicional acerca de los códigos y requisitos de zonas póngase en contacto con su municipio local.

¿Sabía usted que?

- Diez personas mueren ahogadas cada día en los Estados Unidos.
- Aproximadamente una de cada cinco personas que mueren ahogadas son menores de 14 años.
- En los niños de entre uno y cuatro años, la mayoría se ahoga en piscinas de patio y en piscinas para bebés y niños pequeños.
- Tres de cada diez muertes de menores de uno a cuatro años de edad son por causa de ahogamientos.
- La mayoría de los niños que se ahogan han estado fuera de la vista de los cuidadores por menos de 5 minutos.
- Por cada niño menor de 15 años que muere ahogado en una piscina, otros diez son llevados a la sala de emergencia por riesgo de ahogamiento.
- Cuando las víctimas están a poco de ahogarse, sus cerebros no reciben oxígeno, lo que puede causar daños que afecten la capacidad de funcionar de una persona.
- La buena noticia es que el ahogamiento se puede prevenir.

Medidas de Prevención de Ahogamiento

- Los niños pequeños pueden ahogarse a baja profundidad. Un niño menor de cinco años debe estar siempre dentro del alcance del brazo mientras esté cerca del agua.
- Dado que el ahogamiento ocurre rápida y silenciosamente, los adultos no deben realizar ninguna actividad que los distraiga (leer o hablar por teléfono) cuando estén supervisando a los niños.
- Si usted debe alejarse del área de la piscina, aunque solo sea por un minuto, lleve a sus niños con usted.
- Aprenda a nadar. Las lecciones formales de natación pueden proteger a adultos y niños del ahogamiento. Aún así, aunque los niños hayan aprendido, se requiere supervisión constante.
- Enseñe a los niños mayores a nadar siempre con algún amigo y donde haya salvavidas de turno.
- No utilice artefactos inflables o de goma espuma en lugar de chalecos salvavidas. Estos juguetes no están diseñados para mantener a salvo a los nadadores.
- Cuando la piscina no esté en uso, remueva las escaleras y todos los juguetes del área de la piscina.
- Mantenga un botiquín de primeros auxilios disponible cerca de la piscina.
- Enseñe a los niños a marcar 9-1-1 y cómo conseguir ayuda en caso de una emergencia. Asegúrese de que los niños conozcan su dirección.
- Mantenga su celular en el área de la piscina en caso de emergencia.
- Obtenga la certificación en resucitación cardiopulmonar (RCP). En el tiempo que tardan en llegar los paramédicos, sus habilidades de RCP pueden salvar una vida.

