



ANNOUNCEMENT

TO:	Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Captains, Club Chief Training Officers CC: BOM, LSRSC, EC, SSC, Y&JDC, MSC
FROM:	Director Education
DATE:	Monday, 19 January 2026
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NUMBER:	31: 2025/26
SUBJECT:	Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue Award Course (SMAR) March 2026 EOIs open
OVERVIEW:	Sydney Branch has scheduled 2 SMAR award courses for the season. This announcement is calling for expressions of interest (EOIs) from Clubs to submit candidates for the March 2026 course.

The aim of this course is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to participate in search and rescue operations.

As numbers for this course are limited to a maximum of 30 candidates total, places on the course will not be confirmed until after the closing date. If a higher number of people wish to register clubs will be given a quota of allocated places. It would be appreciated if Clubs would prioritise your members in order of preference and experience on beach patrol for the course.

This award course **requires physical requirements of a fitness level to meet the course outcomes**, which should be considered by Clubs (Club Captains) when determining which candidates they will consider for registration of this course. Clubs are asked to please ensure the members you submit are fully aware of course requirements and the commitment of being present for 3 sessions.

AWARD SUMMARY

The aim of this course is to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to participate in search and rescue operations

PRE-REQUISITES

Candidates must meet ALL of the following conditions:

- be at least 16 years of age on the date of final assessment
- complete a 400 metre swim in 8 minutes or less in a swimming pool of no less than 25m length
- hold and be proficient in the SLSA Bronze Medallion

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RPL AND CREDIT TRANSFER

Candidates who believe they already possess some or all of the skills and knowledge of this award, may wish to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). These candidates should consult their Training Officer or State Centre for more information.

NATIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

- Introduction to Search and Rescue (SAR) v2.0 online resource
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue Learner Guide
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue Delivery and Assessment Guide
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue PowerPoint
- 35th Edition *Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue* training manual (accessible via member area)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Contribute to preparation activities for search and rescue operations
 - Interpret task information
 - Use basic navigational techniques
 - Select appropriate search and rescue equipment
- Perform search and rescue of a missing person
 - Identify hazards to self, bystanders and patient at an incident scene
 - Minimise risks
 - Select appropriate personal protective equipment
 - Communicate incident details to relevant personnel at appropriate stages
 - Demonstrate an advanced water entry technique
 - Describe search patterns
 - Operate as a member of a search team
 - Perform retrieval of a submerged object at a depth of 3-5 meters below the surface
 - Participate in a night search operation
- Demonstrate recovery and stand down procedures
 - Complete operational documentation
 - Perform equipment recovery, cleaning and maintenance in line with organisational procedures
 - Describe symptoms of operational stress and sources of support

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through demonstration, presentation and application of all elements of competency in the workplace. Participants will be required to complete activities that may include role-plays, oral and written questioning, practical demonstrations and performing scenarios.

PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Proficiency is required in the prerequisites for this award to remain current.

Award holders will also be expected to remain current through participation in annual update sessions or search and rescue exercises.

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COURSE DATE / TIME / VENUE - MARCH 2025

Dates/Time:	Tuesday	10 March 2026	6.30 pm to 9.30 pm	Session 1
	Thursday	12 March 2026	6.30 pm to 9.30 pm	Session 2
	Saturday	14 March 2026	8.00 am to 5.00 pm	Session 3

Assessment is carried out throughout the course, therefore participants must be able to attend all sessions

Venue: Branch Office, 16 Murra Murra Place, Little Bay for sessions 1 & 2
Randwick Beach for session 3 (TBC)

Registrations Close: by Wednesday 4 February 2026

Registration EOI JotForm link: <https://form.jotform.com/260178403033852>

Facilitators : Stewart Wells, Rodd Sanchez, Nick Tyler, Jake McDonald, Marissa Saunders

PROCESS FOR CLUBS TO REGISTER EOIs

1. Clubs are to consider and select eligible members who meet the criteria and submit names of those candidates suitable for this course via jotform link provided above. Note the form allows for clubs to prioritise up to 4 names.

Evidence of successful timed pool swim (400m in 8mins or less) (Proof of timed swim is to be signed off signed by Chief Training Officer or Endorsed BM Assessor) **by Registration Close date** using the jotform link provided here [SMAR Time Pool Swim form](#)

2. After the close of registrations, the Branch will confirm back with Clubs those participants who have been accepted. The Club will then create the new award SMAR Assessment request in Surfguard and submit.
3. All confirmed course participants will be emailed a course Information Pack prior to session 1 direct from the Branch Office. This will include information of what equipment they need to bring with them for the practical water component of the course. Items such as flippers, hi vis vest, wetsuit/booties, rescue tube, torch, mask/goggles/snorkel and suitable warm clothing.
4. The Branch office will complete the Surfguard award assessment process upon successful completion of the award course by the member and this information will be provided to the members Club via email.

Any queries, please contact Branch Office education@sls.sydney

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