RLSS National Water Safety Management Programme (NWSMP)

The NWSMP is as relevant to a school teacher as it is to a member of the emergency services, countryside ranger, construction worker or outdoor pursuit’s instructor.

The programme has been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive, Outdoor Education Advisory Panel, Expedition Providers’ Association and was developed in close consultation with a number of relevant and key leading bodies including:

- Health and Safety Executive
- Expedition Providers’ Association
- Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
- Devon & Cornwall Police
- Institute of Outdoor Learning
- National Open Water Coaching Association
- The Scouts Association
- Outdoor Education Advisory Panel

More information on modules 1 & 2 (SOLD are offering):

Level 1: Water Safety Awareness is ideally suited to those working/supervising near water but with a definite intention not to get in e.g. a school teacher taking a group on a field trip. This module focuses on understanding in practical, real life terms – how people drown and how to prevent it. Course content includes awareness of generic water hazards and selection and use of simple effective control measures including, for example, boundary setting, observation skills and emergency response skills.
Level 2: Environment Specific includes different modules for River, Stillwater, or Beach which recognises a greater likelihood of getting closer to or in water but with a definite intention to stay within standing depth e.g. construction worker or a Ranger working at the water margins. At this level course delegates look more deeply at hazard identification and risk assessment in specific environments and will complete a range of simulated rescues including shout, signal, reach, throw and wade. Delegates get wet in the chosen environment i.e. river, beach or still — but not beyond waist depth.

- Equip anyone working in, on or near water with essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about managing safety – for example teachers and expedition leaders.
- Enable group leaders to deliver safer activity at open water sites – for example pond dipping.
- Develop personal safety skills for lone workers operating around water – for example students conducting water sampling.
- Facilitate compliance with Statutory and Civil obligations, especially the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 with related regulations and covering Safe Systems of Work.
- Develop effective Emergency Response Skills for those working in a water based environment – for example delivering raft building sessions.