

For Immediate Release

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PHTA Makes Education Updates

(COLORADO SPRINGS, CO) — The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance Board of Directors made determinations on PHTA education structure and course format plans for the future. Recommendations were made to address duplicate courses and certifications that came as a result of the unification of The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). Most changes will go into effect in 2021.

“As the industry grows and evolves, adjustments to education are necessary,” Sabeena S. Hickman, CAE, PHTA President & CEO, stated. “We are committed to providing robust and comprehensive education offerings that benefit all segments of the industry. We continue to work diligently to build upon the excellent courses people have come to know and expect from the organization.”

Education updates will be announced in the coming months. PHTA education will be built and adjusted to provide courses that will help individuals working in the industry to grow their careers and to be successful.

Cornerstone courses PPSOSM and CPOSM will coexist and will continue to meet state certification requirements for commercial pool operators. For 2020, both courses will be offered by PHTA PPSOSM and CPOSM-certified instructors and classes will be held as scheduled. These courses will continue to evolve and will be used in a tiered design to create a commercial track that will allow operators and employers the opportunity to grow and build their career path. A new format will be launched in 2021 that will consist of two levels of certification under the CPOSM umbrella.



The board approved to sunset the Advanced Service TechnicianSM (ASTSM) program. Through 2020 the course will be phased out and replaced with Certified Pool & Spa Service TechnicianSM (CSTSM). Individuals who are currently ASTSM certified are eligible to take the CSTSM self-paced course and exam at no cost for one year after the official announcement phasing out ASTSM. With more states recognizing CSTSM certification for licensing, this allows students to be better positioned and in compliance with their state’s requirements.

The NSPF Instructor Class will be fused with Train the Trainer in 2020. Aspiring Instructors will go through a revamped PHTA Instructor Assessment School and

after successfully passing the course they seek to teach, they will gain authorization to teach that particular course.

“PHTA is a manifestation of strength in unity,” Chairman of the PHTA Board Chris Curcio explained. “One of the greatest benefits of the unification of APSP and NSPF is the overall enhancement of industry education. We’re putting the necessary elements in place to launch a revitalized educational platform, and I couldn’t be more excited for our industry.”

As course revisions are finalized, PHTA will reach out to certification holders about how they are benefited or affected by the adjustments.

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About PHTA

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) was formed in 2019, combining the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). With the mission to “Celebrate the Water,” PHTA facilitates the expansion of swimming, water safety and related research and outreach activities aimed at introducing more people to swimming, making swimming environments safer and keeping pools open to serve communities. For more information, visit PHTA.org, APSP.org or NSPF.org.