

PE Speed-gram

Boats, Water, & Kids

Many of our dedicated Auxiliarists with an interest in youth education will be delighted to learn that we now have a new youth course available. Called *Boats, Water, & Kids*, it consolidates and supersedes the former *Water 'N Kids* and *Boats 'N Kids* courses. It consists of three items, the *Boats, Water, & Kids* booklet (stock number 3033), a graduation certificate (stock number 6043), AND a shorter instructor guide called "A Note to Teachers" (stock number 5019). These can be ordered from the USCG Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC). Future editions of the order form will include these stock numbers. For the present, write these numbers on blank lines.

Boats, Water, & Kids, may be taught by USCGAUX instructors, classroom teachers, or adult teachers from other organizations. It is intended as a one-period presentation to children in grades kindergarten through six. Teachers should key their presentation to the age group taught.

ACCIDENTS are the leading cause of death for children over the age of one, and DROWNINGS and other boating related accidents rank second behind motor vehicles in fatality statistics. These facts underscore the importance of boating safety for youth.

This booklet is *not* a "boat show give-away". It is also not a "coloring book" in the traditional sense. It is intended to stimulate a dialog between the student and the instructor about issues that can help a child think through the ways in which a boating accident can be avoided.

Some of the KEY MESSAGES to be covered in class:

- Everyone should learn to swim. You should wear a life jacket or *Personal Flotation Device* (PFD) when on small boats even if you are a good swimmer. The life jacket must be worn properly, be Coast Guard approved, and preferably be a bright color.
- If the boat becomes disabled, stay with it if possible. If in the water use the huddle position.
- Learn how to enter a boat and how to balance it.
- Understand why a proper lookout must be maintained and the operator informed about the other boats, buoys, "diver" flags, water or jet skiers, and swimmers.
- *Personal Watercraft* (PWC) are growing in popularity. They are not toys and have some unique features such as a safety lanyard which must be attached to the operator to shut off the engine if a fall, and the need to keep the throttle advanced to be able to steer the craft. Know your state age limit for operation of PWC and other types of boats.

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- Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is against the law. These substances can adversely affect sight, hearing, balance, and judgment. Children can understand these conditions and learn to avoid them.

- It is also of great importance to emphasize to everyone the need to leave a “float plan” with a responsible person AND to notify them upon your safe return.

The *Boats, Water, & Kids* course is an updated version of the earlier courses. We have received a grant to produce a successor to the *Boats, Water, & Kids*- one additional text and improved graphics. When complete in about one year, this will replace the *Boats, Water, & Kids* course. Therefore, by all means order what you need, but please do not “stock up” and hoard these materials. The print quantity for “A Note to Teachers”(stock number 5019) is a very much smaller than that for the *Boats, Water, & Kids* booklet. Please use 5019 only for teachers. Maximum order quantities of 50 copies have been established by ANSC for stock numbers 3033 and 6043 and two copies for stock number 5019 to help conserve supplies. However, members with a legitimate need for more copies per order can obtain these with a brief written justification.

Thanks for your patience and your continuing interest in the youth program. For more information, insights, and ideas, contact Betty Oakey of our staff.