

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

*America's Volunteer Lifesavers* <sup>SM</sup>

# SpeedGram

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## AUXILIARY ON WATER TRAINING – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Several members have raised the question, “May graduates of non-Auxiliary NASBLA approved courses participate in *On Water Training*?”

**The answer is: No, only graduates of these Auxiliary courses are eligible for OWT:**

- *BOATING SAFELY*
- *BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP* (At least the core course)
- *SAILING FUNDAMENTALS*
- *AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE*

ABC students are eligible for Auxiliary OWT if they attended an Auxiliary-conducted, state-specific regulation class and passed an Auxiliary proctored ABC test. It does not matter where they purchased ABC.

To be more specific, graduates of U. S. Power Squadron courses (including those conducted by an Auxiliarist who is a USPS member), state courses (even when conducted by Auxiliarists), or any other NASBLA approved course (other than those listed above) are NOT eligible for Auxiliary OWT.

Why has the Auxiliary taken this stance?

It has to do with enhancing the Auxiliary Public Education program. At all levels - National, District, Division, and Flotilla, our Auxiliary looks to income from PE activity for about 50 percent of operating budgets. Without that income all other Auxiliary functions would be very short of funds. So, beyond the fact that teaching boating safety is an important contribution to the boating public, and an enjoyable and satisfying thing to do, it represents a vital income source for our Auxiliary.

Whether we like it or not, we are in competition for students. Some competition comes from other providers, but our toughest competition is student apathy and inertia. Enhancing Auxiliary Public Education courses with Auxiliary provided OWT gives us an advantage over other providers and is an enticement for students to seek Auxiliary-conducted boating education courses.

How long we will have this advantage is difficult to say. Other organizations are already following our lead. So, let's capitalize on this advantage and increase our market share of boating students!!!

### ***AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE with ON WATER TRAINING***

A powerful message from a powerful organization, The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary