

BOATS AND KIDS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY 14-1
AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA



A MESSAGE TO FAMILIES:

Your child has been part of a school presentation by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They have received instruction on how to stay safe when swimming and boating. We are fortunate to live in an area that offers many opportunities for both. The instruction is geared to young children so we can reach them as early as possible.

Swimming:

We encourage them to become strong swimmers and never swim alone. Always with a buddy. In pools enter feet first and only dive in at the deep end.

At the beach avoid swimming when the water is rough that can produce rip currents. Your child was taught how to recognize and recover from rip currents. Swim where there is a life guard.

Our rivers have strong currents that make swimming treacherous. Also the water is not clear so it is hard to gauge the depth of the water or what is on the bottom. We suggest that they wear shoes when swimming in our rivers to protect them from oyster beds.

If a buddy is in trouble do not enter the water to help him/her. Throw them something that floats that they can hold on to or anything such as a rope that can pull them towards you.

Boating:

The students have been taught how to become a participant in the boating experience and not just a passenger. They learn to help the driver by watching for other boats and objects that could lead to a collision and tell him with a loud voice about the approaching danger. They know not to sit on the bow or sides of the boat when it is moving. They will wear a proper fitted life jacket or at least have it within arms reach when under way. They know to tell someone on shore where they are going, when they will return and describe the boat. We hope the operator of the boat will take time to show the kids the safety features of the boat and give them some instruction on operating the boat.

If you would like more information about adult boating courses, courtesy vessel exams or membership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, please visit our web-site: cgaux7-14-1.org