

Water Safety Program



“Boats and Kids”

Developed by Flotilla 14-1 District 7 Coast Guard Auxiliary

Goal

Our goal in developing “Boats and Kids” was to create a program to reach children as young as possible. Through trial and error, we selected eight to nine-year olds. That is the third grade. By teaching the same grade each year we reach all students in the school as they pass through the third grade. We return to the schools each year.

Don’t underestimate the maturity of eight and nine-year-old children. They are intent listeners. You cannot find a group of kids that have a stronger desire to learn. You will be rewarded by seeing all their faces glued to your presentation.

School Contact

We hear from some Coast Guard Auxiliary units that there is resistance to getting into classrooms. This is the result of the growing need for security in schools. They are very selective about what outside groups they allow into their schools.

We suggest that your initial contact be with the school superintendent. Bring a summary of your program with you to leave with him/her. This is a high-level contact so dress accordingly. If you choose not to wear your uniform, we suggest business attire. If the superintendent accepts your program you will then contact school principals: (phone contact is all that is necessary since you have approval from the superintendent). The principal usually directs you to a teacher who will make the arrangements for your classroom presentation. Try to meet the principal when you go to the school for your presentation, or before, if you think it is necessary. Only the first year is time consuming. You will just call the principal for future visits to agree on dates.

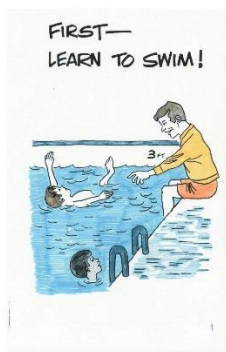
Presentation

Our presentation includes three parts: 1. Swimming Safety (15 minutes), 2. Boating safety (20 minutes), and 3. Trash in the marine environment (10 minutes). Allow time for questions (time available). Keep the presentation within one hour.

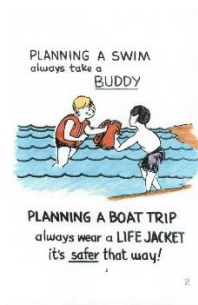
We use posters and toy boats as training aids. The posters we use are in this document. You can download the posters from our Web Site. We suggest that you take them to a UPS store or other printer and have them enlarged to 11X17. UPS can also laminate the posters in vinyl to last longer. (UPS cost is about \$3.00 each)

This is only a guide. You will plan your own presentation.

Swimming safety (15 minutes)



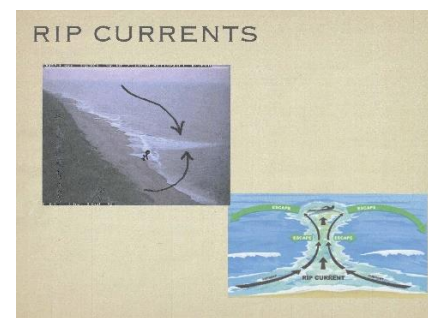
LearnToSwim.jpeg



Planning.jpeg



Swimming.jpeg



RipCurrent.jpeg

Don't ask the children if they know how to swim. Just encourage them to become strong swimmers.

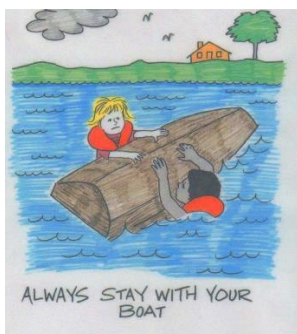
Tell them they should not dive into a pool except at the deep end or any other body of water until an adult has checked the depth and hazard on the bottom of the water. Tide changes cause currents that are difficult to swim against. An Olympic swimmer cannot swim against a 5mph current.

Always swim with a buddy. If the buddy is in trouble never jump in to save him. You will be pulled under. Hand him something to pull him in or throw something to keep him afloat. Use the poster of the buddy in trouble to demonstrate.

Explain that wave action on the beach causes rip currents and tell them how to avoid rip currents. Avoid swimming when the surf is high unless there is a lifeguard present.

Encourage them to always swim where there is a Lifeguard. Since waves create rip currents, the rip currents are a threat when the surf is high.

Boating Safety - 20 minutes



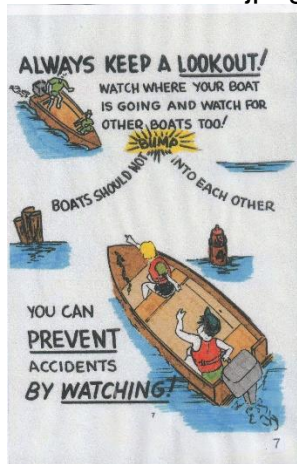
OverTurnedBoat.jpeg



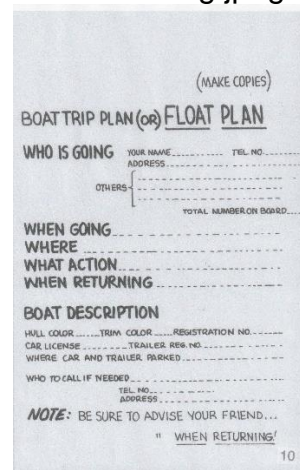
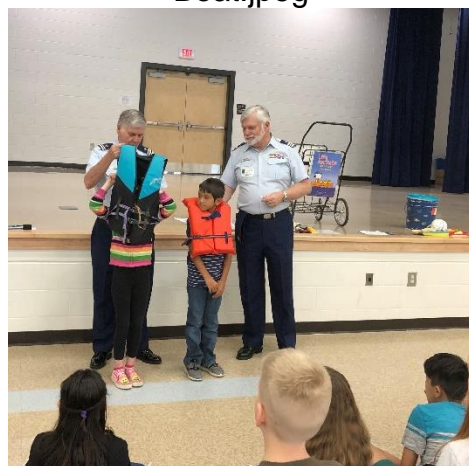
Boat.jpeg



SafeBoating.jpeg



LookOut.jpeg



FloatPlan.jpeg

We start by selecting two children and put a life preserver on each one. We put an adult blue ski vest on one and a child's blaze orange life preserver on the other. We ask which one would be best if they were in trouble. The orange one because it can be seen better than the other one. Both are approved life preservers. We purposely do not tighten the ski vest to show what happens when it does not fit. We explain that when they jump into the water their arms will go up. We then pull the life preserver up over their head to show the need to adjust the preserver when they put it on.

If in trouble, stay with the boat. It will be easier to find them. Also, currents can be swift (use the poster or toy boat to demonstrate).

Discuss the danger of sitting on the sides and front deck. Explain what can happen. Use a toy boat with solid deck. Also, nice to have a toy boat with a cut out in the bow to show the difference.

Tell the kids to help the boat driver by being a “LOOK OUT”. Ask them what some of the things are they could watch for. One of our exhibits is a crab trap buoy with an anchor line attached. It is hard for the boat driver to see the small buoy. If he runs over it, the anchor line could get tangled in the boat propeller.

To demonstrate, tell them you will count to 3 and they will point and shout “look out; crab trap.” If not loud enough, have them do it again.

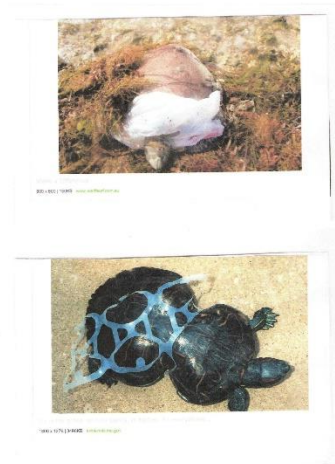
Discuss leaving a float plan with someone when they are going out on a boat. Review the Information needed for someone to come looking for them.

Discuss signal devices on the boat and have exhibits. Marine radio, all boats can hear the marine radio but not a phone, flares, horn, mirror or ladies compact and whistle (for canoe or kayak). Ask them to stand and demonstrate the international signal for “I am in trouble”. Do it 4 or 5 times and ask them to sit down.

Suggest items they should take with them to protect them from the sun and have exhibits. Hat, sunglasses, suntan lotion and water. Explain about skin cancer and eye damage.



Protecting the marine environment - 10 minutes



Turtle.jpeg

We have a bucket of items retrieved from the water and tell the kids the life expectancy of the items. Then we discuss the damage they can do by killing birds, fish, whales, and turtles.

The time the items stay in the water; paper - 2-4 weeks, tin cans - 100 years, aluminum cans - 200 to 500 years plastic (six pack rings and bottles) - 450 years, Glass bottles more than 500 years.



We Give each student a certificate that the teacher will put their name on. The back of the certificate has a letter to the parents explaining what their child was taught. It is also a promotion for your flotilla by listing your web site for vessel exams and boating safety classes



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Certificate of Participation

NAME

Has successfully completed

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Youth Course in Safe Boating



Instructor/Facilitator

Date



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

Posters and other Resources

This is a zip file with all the posters, etc. It is over 11 mb.

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/KidsProgramPosters.zip>

Individual Files:

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/BalanceTheBoat.jpeg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Boat.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/BoatNames.jpeg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Certificate.pdf>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/CertificateBack.pdf>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/FloatPlan.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/HowLong.jpeg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Lookout.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/OverturnedBoat.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Planning.jpeg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/RipCurrent.jpeg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/SafeBoating.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Swimming.jpg>

<https://cgaux7-14-1.org/resources/KidsProgram/Turtle.jpg>