



2021 Education & Training Symposium

[Invitation to Attend](#)

Dear Colleague:

On August 30 – September 1, 2021 the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) will host its [35th Annual Education and Training Symposium](#). This symposium will take place virtually and presents a unique opportunity for attendees to discuss trends, celebrate accomplishments, participate in Federal Grant Updates & Training sessions, and focus on the future of providing public boating access in America. As President of SOBA, I want to personally invite you and your staff to attend our upcoming Education and Training Symposium.

Established in 1986, SOBA's mission is to encourage, promote and support federal and state programs that provide safe, high-quality and environmentally sound public recreational boating access to the waterways of the United States and its territories. Our members are state boating officials and other boating organizations involved in public boating access. During our 35 years, SOBA has been instrumental in helping to secure dedicated federal funding for the acquisition and development of boating access under the Sport Fish Restoration Fund and creation of the Clean Vessel Act and Boating Infrastructure Grant programs to help fund sanitary pump-outs and docks for transient boaters. The majority of funding for these programs is from the federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational boating. This is one of the best examples of user generated taxes being returned to states to improve facilities and services for the public.

Please be reminded that federal funding can cover up to 75% of the planning and administration costs related to these state programs but only if these costs are specifically requested in the federal grant proposal. A grant submitted through the Sport Fish Restoration Program can include staff training and costs associated with your employees attending the SOBA Training and Education Symposium.

SOBA continues to participate in efforts to help assure critical funding sources to assist in the design, construction, and monitoring of boating access facilities, boating infrastructure, and equipment to remove vessel sewage. The SOBA Executive Board is currently updating the Design Handbook for Recreational Boating and Fishing Facilities, developing an American's with Disability handbook for members use when designing and constructing access related facilities, and developing guidance on the best practice of addressing Invasive Species.

Lastly, I want to personally thank you and your agency or company for its past and future support of SOBA and its mission to provide high quality public recreational boating access, infrastructure, and protection of water quality. Additional information regarding the virtual training and education symposium is available on our website at www.sobaus.org. If I can be of future service, please feel free to contact me directly at 804-864-7468, or by email at preston.smith@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Preston Smith
President, States Organization for Boating Access

Symposium Invitation

2021 SOBA Education & Training Symposium

[Register Now!](#)

The [States Organization for Boating Access \(SOBA\)](#) Education & Training Symposium brings together state boating officials, consultants, engineering firms, manufacturers, suppliers, publishers and other businesspersons interested in boating access. Register now for the [2021 Education and Training Symposium](#) taking place virtually **August 30 – September 1**. Registration is now open and you can [register online](#). Deadline for registration is **Friday, August 27th, 2021**.



Symposium agenda has been published. [Check out the online agenda](#) to plan your experience The symposium will kick off on **Monday, August 30th**, at **1:00 PM (EDT)** with the Business Meeting, followed by Federal Training in the afternoon. On Tuesday, August 31st, join us for Opening Ceremonies at 1:00 PM (EDT), followed by breakout sessions for the remainder of the afternoon. The virtual Education & Training Symposium will conclude Wednesday, September 1st, at 4:00 PM (EDT).

SOBA is offering [sponsorship opportunities](#) for the upcoming annual Education and Training Symposium. Select a sponsorship level that fits your needs. Only two Platinum sponsorships are available!

Registration

Agenda

Sponsorship Opportunities

Who We Are

An organization devoted to the acquisition, development and administration of public recreational boating facilities nationwide. The States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) provides a forum for the exchange of views, ideas, concepts and experiences related to all aspects of recreational boating facilities.

Our Mission

To encourage, promote and support federal and state programs that provide safe, high-quality and environmentally sound public recreational boat access to the waterways of the United States and its territories.

www.sobaus.org

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