



Education & Outreach Committee Final Report

2025-2026 Committee Charges, Membership, and Next Cycle Recommendations

August 7, 2026

Chair: Chelsea Hofmeier, Kansas
Vice Chair: Brian Rehwinkel, Florida

NASBLA Education & Outreach Committee Charter

Education & Outreach Vision Statement

The Education and Outreach Committee will provide guidance, support, and expertise to advance boating safety and develop national education and outreach program recommendations.

Program recommendations will:

- Advance the strategic plans of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and NASBLA;*
- Incorporate best practices and current research;*
- Support the implementation of national standards for boating education;*
- Identify effective innovations in education and outreach;*
- Develop communication strategies using targeted marketing and educational tactics; and*
- Connect the public, member organizations and stakeholders with the products of the committee and others.*

Education & Outreach Committee members are assembled into project teams, taking the lead on specific, assigned charges and monitoring activities.

This report provides a summary of committee deliverables and work products for the 2025 -2026 Committee year.

Committee Year Overview

The 2025–2026 committee year presented several unique challenges that affected the pace and direction of committee work. During the year, NASBLA experienced organizational changes within its education leadership that required a period of transition and reprioritization. Committee members and charge teams remained committed to advancing their assigned projects, however, several initiatives stalled without needed coordination and organizational support before moving into their next phases.

Despite these challenges, committee members continued to meet, collaborate, and make meaningful progress on multiple long-term initiatives. The accomplishments outlined in this report reflect the dedication and resilience of the volunteers who continued moving projects forward while recognizing that several charges will benefit from renewed direction and support during the upcoming committee cycle.

2025 - 2026 Education & Outreach Committee Charges

Charge 1: Boating Education Toolkit Charge Leader: Chelsea Hofmeier (KS)

Continue updating the living documents: NASBLA Boating Education Coordinator Quick Reference Guide, Outreach Activities, and Product Resource lists. Continue working with NASBLA staff to update the webpage so states and other boating education partners can access the materials. E&O Leadership along with NASBLA staff, continue to facilitate the Water Cooler meetings, featuring new topics and/or guest speakers every month.

Accomplishments:

- Held monthly “Water Cooler” meetings. Topics of discussion included state education needs, boating education course management, agency outreach projects, boat shows, and other boating-related topics.
- Charge team met a few times and has plans to create/update a web page for Boating Education Coordinators to share resources, support, and other information.
- The Charge Team has developed a vision for this resource and is prepared to continue development once organizational priorities and implementation guidance are established.

Recommendations:

This Charge should continue during the 2026 - 2027 with a renewed mission of creating and maintaining a new platform for educators to share content and communicate.

Charge 2: Boating Education Student Assessment Question Bank: Charge Leader: Stephen Barr (ME)

The Committee will continue to gather test questions to add to the test question pool. The Charge team will review the existing student assessment questions and ensure they align with the ANSI / NASBLA Standards. The Charge Team will create a bank of questions containing a minimum of five times the number of questions prescribed for each category in the NASBLA Policy for Course Delivery Platforms and Student Assessments for a Boating Safety Education Course, Section 9, Assessment Standard-3 Question Weights. Once the new Boating Education Student Assessment Question Bank is established, the Charge Team will review it each year and submit a new version to offer the course providers a variety of questions as their courses come up for NASBLA review.

Accomplishments:

- The charge team finished writing all the questions for the thirty-seven (37) question categories by meeting or exceeding the required number of questions for each category in the test pool.
- The questions have been submitted to NASBLA for approval.

Recommendations:

This charge is complete. It is recommended that it is renewed in the 2028-2029 committee cycle.

Charge 3: Collaborative Boat Livery Boating Education Opportunities: Charge Leader: Donna Revelle (MD)

This Charge focuses on understanding and improving safety in boat rental operations across the United States. The initiative recognizes that boat rental operations face unique challenges that require specialized solutions and collaborative approaches. To help understand the issues that states face regarding the livery industry, the Charge Team developed and distributed the survey.

From this research, the Team will recommend a practical approach to reducing the number of incidents related to the livery industry. The long-term vision is to establish NASBLA as a leader in boat rental safety reform, creating stronger relationships within the industry that will benefit both individual states and the broader boating community.

Accomplishments:

- Sent out survey to all states. Approximately 30 responded.
- Reviewed survey data and discussed next steps on what to do with it.
- Had guest Livery owners attend a few meetings to share helpful information on how they operate a safe and successful livery business and how they work with their state agency.

Recommendations:

Once the Boating Education Toolkit moves to a new platform, livery resources identified from this charge will be added.

Charge 4: Standardized Inflatable Life Jacket Wear Education and Enforcement Best Practice: Charge Leaders: Peg Phillips (NSBC) and Brian Rehwinkel (FL)

This charge addresses the confusing patchwork of rules and enforcement practices surrounding inflatable life jackets across different states. Currently, boating educators and law enforcement officers often receive mixed messages about how inflatable personal flotation devices should be worn and when they meet legal requirements, creating inconsistency that undermines public safety. The situation is becoming more urgent with the Coast Guard approval of Level 50 PFDs and the new rules regarding inflatable PFDs. These factors will add another layer of complexity to an already confusing landscape. Without clear, unified guidance, this could waste the best opportunity in decades to get more boaters to wear life jackets.

The Charge Team tackled this problem by surveying state agencies nationwide to understand current practices and challenges. From this research, the team was able to create a comprehensive formula that gives both educators, law enforcement, and the public clear, consistent PFD wearage guidelines.

The Charge Team's most notable achievement in the previous cycle was developing the innovative "Ser CAPTAIN" formula for standardized inflatable life jacket wear education and enforcement. This is a logical, legally grounded approach that helps boating educators, law enforcement officers, and the public ensure proper personal flotation device use. The Life Jacket Association endorsed this initiative with a formal letter of support following the committee's presentation at their annual conference in May 2025.

Accomplishments:

- Presented the [Ser CAPTAIN formula](#) to the full E&O Committee for Committee endorsement.
- The charge goal of creating content to help boaters, educators and law enforcement with a simple process to understand inflatable life jacket use has been met and expanded to include all forms of wearable, recreational life jackets

- Presented the Ser CAPTAIN formula to the Law Enforcement Committee to seek input on what format they would like to see the presentation in so that it is useful to LE field staff.

Recommendations:

This charge is complete. It is recommended that this charge move to ongoing programs for maintenance and review as needed.

2026 Education & Outreach Committee Meetings

- The full Education & Outreach Committee met on two occasions to discuss Charge Team products and other Committee matters. One of the meetings was virtual, and one was a full day of in-person meetings on March 12, 2026, in Lexington, Ky.

Although this committee year did not unfold as originally planned, the Education & Outreach Committee demonstrated the commitment and professionalism of its members by continuing to advance key initiatives whenever possible. The committee remains enthusiastic about the work ahead and looks forward to building on the progress made this year under renewed organizational direction.