



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 17, 2019**

## **Boaters nationwide prepare ahead of boating season as part of national *Spring Aboard* campaign**

[LEXINGTON, KY] – Thanks to the support and participation of boating education course providers on the local, state and national level, hundreds of boaters received boating safety education during the [2019 Spring Aboard – Take A Boating Education Course campaign!](#) Boating safety advocates and [campaign partners](#) helped reach boaters across the country in an effort to promote boater education and encourage new and seasoned boaters to get ready for boating season by completing a boating safety course. Many agencies and organizations offered discounts and promotions to those who completed a course during the national *Spring Aboard – Take A Boating Education Course* week.

In 2019, 46 states and territories participated in the national campaign, a 58% increase in the number of states represented in 2018. Spring Aboard week took place March 17-23, 2019. To see a list of course providers and partners who participated in the campaign visit [springboard.org](http://springboard.org).

Leading into [National Safe Boating Week](#), which will take place May 18 – 24, the Spring Aboard campaign and its partners encourage all boaters who have not taken a boating education course this year to sign up and get prepared before taking to the water this boating season. New boaters and seasoned boaters can continuously improve upon their boating knowledge and skills through an array of both in-person and online course options.

[U.S. Coast Guard](#) statistics indicate that of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 81% of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had **never** received boating education instruction. A boating safety course provides critical boating knowledge that anyone who plans to get out on the water should have, and better prepares you for a variety of situations you may face while boating.

The [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](#) (NASBLA) coordinates the annual Spring Aboard campaign on a national level, with support from its local, state, federal and nonprofit partners. The Spring Aboard campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard and is open to participation by all states, territories, boating education organizations, instructors, and course providers.

NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization and represents the recreational boating authorities of all 56 states and the U.S. territories. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 73.5 million American boaters. Learn more about NASBLA at [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org) and visit the campaign website at [www.springboard.org](http://www.springboard.org) to find a boating course that meets your needs.

