



Talking Points

SPRING ABOARD

March 17 - 23, 2019

- The annual Spring Aboard campaign informs and motivates boaters to prepare for the boating season by providing information on how to enroll in a boating knowledge or skills based education course.
- Spring Aboard 2019 encourages education providers and partners to offer discounts or other incentives for students who enroll in or complete a boating safety course during the week of **March 17-23, 2019**.
- According to the U.S. Coast Guard's 2017 Recreational Boating Safety Statistics, there were 4,291 accidents that involved 658 deaths, 2,629 injuries and approximately \$46 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.*
- Where instruction was known, 81% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.*
- Only 14% percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally-approved boating safety education certificate.*
- Boating education is about more than avoiding accidents. Educated boaters are more confident boaters and they are able to enjoy the boating experience much more.
- The Spring Aboard campaign provides up-to-date resources to recreational boating safety professionals to utilize and share at their own convenience.
- Forty-nine (49) states and U.S. territories require proof of completion of a boating education course for operators of some powered vessels. For a summary of your state's regulations and available courses, visit: www.nasbla.org/education/mandatory-education.
- Working in partnership with the states, many course providers will be offering incentives or course discounts for students who enroll in, or complete, a course during the Spring Aboard campaign.
- Course providers and offerings will vary between states, so check with your local course provider or state boating agency to find out what courses are accepted in your area.
- Many states require completion of a course verified by NASBLA as meeting the national boating education standard for powerboat rental or operation. To ensure a course qualifies, look for the 'NASBLA-Approved' logo.



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



- NASBLA’s mission is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment. Learn more: www.nasbla.org.
- For more information, boaters can access springaboard.org, nasbla.org or uscgboating.org.

*Source: U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics 2017



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