



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prepare to ‘Spring Aboard’ and Participate in a Boating Education Course

Manassas, VA (March 16, 2017) – The [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](#) (NASBLA) and the [National Safe Boating Council](#) (NSBC) encourage boaters to enroll in a boating education course prior to the kickoff of the boating season. During the week of March 19-25, as part of the [Spring Aboard – Take A Boating Education Course](#) campaign, many course providers are offering discounts or other incentives for students who enroll or complete a boating safety education course. [U.S. Coast Guard](#) statistics indicate that of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 80% of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had never received boating education instruction.

“The National Safe Boating Council has supported the *Spring Aboard* campaign since its inception and is proud to continue promoting the campaign. The importance of taking a safe boating education course is paramount and the Spring season is a great time to do so. Even for more practiced boat operators,” said Rachel Johnson, NSBC executive director. “Recreational boaters should be aware of the responsibilities associated with the operating a vessel and are encouraged to take advantage of course discounts and incentives offered during the week of March 19-25.”

Developed by NASBLA, and produced under a grant administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, 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. The campaign emphasizes enrollment in courses verified as meeting the national boating knowledge or skill standard.

“We know that an educated boater is safer on the water. If a boater has taken a boating safety education course, the likelihood of their time spent on the water being a safe and enjoyable experience is much greater for them as well as their passengers,” said Stephanie Weatherington, President of NASBLA. “With today’s wide variety of courses available, there’s a course for everyone’s schedule. Boaters have multiple options from classroom courses offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons to online offerings available anytime day or night. There’s no reason for boaters to head out on the water without knowing what they’re doing, and spring is the perfect time to take a course before the summer boating season begins.”

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.





The *Spring Aboard* campaign is open to participation by all states, territories, boating education organizations, instructors, and course providers. For more information about the Spring Aboard campaign visit nasbla.org/spring.

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About the National Safe Boating Council

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. The NSBC accomplishes this mission by promoting outreach and research initiatives that support boating education and safety awareness; improving the professional development of boating safety educators through training; and developing and recognizing outstanding boating safety programs. To learn more about the NSBC and its programs, visit www.SafeBoatingCouncil.org.

About the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. The association offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. 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.

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