



**TRAIL  
LIFE  
USA**

# Boating Safety

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Safety, navigation, skills, emergencies, or equipment operation courses or seminars from a provider listed on the US Coast Guard Boating Safety Resource Center that applies to powerboats or sailboats (not personal watercraft or paddle craft) and that requires at least three hours to complete may be used for any course requirements listed below. Combinations of related courses or seminars may be used to meet the minimum time requirement. Some online courses are free and only charge for a boater education card or boating license (in a small number of states). It is not necessary to purchase the card to complete the requirement. Print a copy of the page that states that you qualified to purchase such a card and that is sufficient to verify successful participation in the class.

Do all of the following requirements (1-6)

- \_\_\_\_1. Complete the Aquatics trail badge or do the following:
  - \_\_\_\_a. Complete the Swimming Competency Test at the Swimmer level.
  - \_\_\_\_b. Demonstrate the proper way to put on a personal flotation device (PFD)
  - \_\_\_\_c. Demonstrate that the PFD is properly fitted for your use.
  - \_\_\_\_d. Explain why a PFD should always be worn while boating.
  - \_\_\_\_e. Demonstrate throwing a floatable object to a distressed person in the water.
- \_\_\_\_2. Participate in a Safe Aquatics Method and boating safety orientation that includes the following:
  - \_\_\_\_a. Discussion with your Mentor about your personal swimming abilities, comfort with being near or in the water, and their impact on your boating choices.
  - \_\_\_\_b. Presentation on the five types of PFDs and their uses.
  - \_\_\_\_c. Explanation of weather conditions that preclude boating activities
- \_\_\_\_3. Using pictures or actual boats:

- \_\_\_\_\_a. Identify the port, starboard, aft, and forward directions.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Identify the stern, bow, deck, gunwales, cockpit, transom, keel, stem, and sole.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Identify and explain the function of the companionway, locker, mast, boom, cleat, chock, hatch, porthole, and bilge.
- \_\_\_\_\_4. Complete a boating safety course.
- \_\_\_\_\_5. Demonstrate your ability to tie a cleat hitch, and to secure a line with an eye splice to a pile or dolphin, and the eye splice to a horn cleat.
- \_\_\_\_\_6. Learn the following emergency responses:
- \_\_\_\_\_a. Demonstrate appropriate visual signals for communicating vessel distress or an emergency situation to a passing boater.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Describe the procedures for vessel occupants to follow during a vessel capsizing or sinking.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Describe the best procedures to avoid the capsizing or sinking, especially for vessel capacity, vessel trim and hazardous weather.
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. Verbally demonstrate how to complete a vessel distress call on a VHF marine radio for a sinking or capsized vessel. For this example distress call, use the following details for your observations:
    - Distressed vessel: 16-foot runabout; 40 horsepower outboard engine
    - Persons aboard: two adults and two children ages 4 and 10
    - Water location: pick a familiar location in your geographic area

**Do three of the following optional requirements (7-17)**

- \_\_\_\_\_7. Complete an additional boating safety, navigation, skills, emergencies, or equipment operation course different from others previously completed.
- \_\_\_\_\_8. Complete an additional boating safety, navigation, skills, emergencies, or equipment operation course different from others previously completed.
- \_\_\_\_\_9. Complete an additional boating safety, navigation, skills, emergencies, or equipment operation course different from others previously completed.
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Demonstrate your ability to tie the following knots and explain their uses in boating: square (reef) knot, figure eight, two half hitches, sheet bend, and bowline.

- \_\_\_\_11. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the following:
- \_\_\_\_a. Manila, nylon, polypropylene, and Dacron rope materials.
  - \_\_\_\_b. Twisted and braided rope construction.
- \_\_\_\_12. Through the use of diagrams, models, drawings or a boat, demonstrate the proper use of spring lines and breast lines for making a vessel fast in both of the following situations:
- \_\_\_\_a. Stern of vessel secured to pier or wharf, and bow secured to piles or dolphins.
  - \_\_\_\_b. Port of vessel secured to pier or wharf, with additional vessels forward and aft **of your vessel's berth area.**
- \_\_\_\_13. Create or replenish a first aid and emergency kit for your boat that prepares you to respond to at least the following:
- \_\_\_\_a. Cuts, scrapes, insect bites or stings, blisters
  - \_\_\_\_b. Dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke
  - \_\_\_\_c. Burns (superficial, partial-thickness, and full-thickness)
  - \_\_\_\_d. Severe bleeding, breathing emergencies, heart attack, and stroke
  - \_\_\_\_e. Person in water in distress or drowning
  - \_\_\_\_f. Engine failure and fires
  - \_\_\_\_g. Rough seas due to storms
- \_\_\_\_14. Complete either of the following as appropriate to your situation:
- \_\_\_\_a. Inspect a vessel for proper safety equipment prior to having the vessel undergo a passing vessel safety check.
  - \_\_\_\_b. Outline on paper specific steps and contacts to make to arrange for a vessel safety check by a trained Vessel Examiner. Prepare a list of the required safety equipment as necessary to successfully pass a vessel safety check for a hypothetical vessel consisting of a 16-foot runabout with a 40 horsepower outboard engine.
- \_\_\_\_15. Explain the differences between aerial and hand-held flares and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

- \_\_\_\_16. Explain the procedural steps and methods to extinguish a small fire using a hand-held fire extinguisher.
- \_\_\_\_17. Demonstrate extinguishing a small fire using a hand-held fire extinguisher.

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Trail Badge Mentor Signature

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Date

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