

Contact: Erika Clemons
Phone: (703) 361-4294
Email: campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 "I'M A SAFE BOATER ARE YOU?" CONTEST CALL TO ENTRIES
Children 4-15 Asked to Describe Their Safe Boating Efforts

Manassas, VA (November 29, 2007) – The National Safe Boating Council, with the support of West Marine, Inc., the country's favorite retailer of boating supplies and accessories, are asking for entries for the 2008 Boating Safety Sidekicks Contest "I'm a Safe Boater, Are You?"

The third annual Boating Safety Sidekicks Contest "I'm a Safe Boater, Are You?" asks for children between the ages of 4 and 15 to submit posters, artwork, photography or movies in addition to short stories and essays that describe how they stay safe on the water. Wearing a life jacket is a great way to help keep boaters safe but there are lots of other things you can do to stay safe on the water. Visit the Boating Safety Sidekicks website (www.boatingsidekicks.com) or the National Safe Boating Council's website (www.safeboatingcouncil.org) for more tips on how to be a safe boater.

We hope that by hearing these stories parents, brothers, sisters, families and friends will realize how important it is for children as well as adults to wear their life jackets and boat safely. Kids between the ages of 4 to 15 are eligible to enter anytime between now and June 1, 2008.

Once again first, second, and third place prizes will be awarded in three different categories for each age group, four to seven, eight to eleven and twelve to fifteen. First place awards will give a \$100 savings bond, a life jacket, one NSBC member donated prize, Sidekicks cap and DVD and recognition on the Sidekicks website. Prizes donated courtesy of West Marine and WithinReach.

Essay winners will be chosen based upon good grammar, punctuation, composition and the story told. Poster and video winners will be evaluated on design, style, artwork and the safety message.

For contest details, entry requirements, deadlines and more details, visit the Boating Safety Sidekicks Web site www.boatingsafetysidekicks.com. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

The National Safe Boating recently announced the winners of the 2007 contest. You can read all of these winning entries on the Sidekicks website. A complete list of 2007 winners is as follows:

4-7 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY: Brooke B., 7, Kennesaw, GA
- 1st PLACE MOVIE: Bryce A., 6, North Las Vegas, NV

8-11 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY: Ross L., 11, Pawleys Island, SC
- 1ST PLACE POSTER: Foster C., 9, Curwensville, PA
- 1ST PLACE MOVIE: Adrian P., 9, National City, CA

12-15 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY/1st PLACE POSTER: Colin B., 12, Crescent City, CA
- 1st PLACE MOVIE: Kyle A., 13, North Las Vegas, NV

Thank you to all who participated in the contest for your submissions and Congratulations to our winners!

ABOUT WEST MARINE

West Marine, the country's favorite retailer of boating supplies and accessories, has 380 West Marine stores in 38 states, Puerto Rico and Canada. The Company's catalog and Internet channels offer customers approximately 50,000 products - far more than any competitor - and the convenience of exchanging catalog and Internet purchases at its retail stores. The Company's Port Supply division is one of the country's largest wholesale distributors of marine equipment serving boat manufacturers, marine services, commercial vessel operators and government agencies. For more information on West Marine's products and store locations, or to start shopping, visit westmarine.com or call 1-800-BOATING (1-800-262-8464).

ABOUT NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

Formed in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education and outreach. The NSBC is comprised of over 333 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.