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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United States Adaptive Recreation Center is Awarded 2009 “Take ‘Em Boating’ Grant

Washington, DC (April 24, 2009) – The United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC) has been awarded the fourth annual National Safe Boating Council’s (NSBC) “Take ‘Em Boating” grant for their program “Environmental Education and Kayaking in Public Schools for Children with Disabilities.” The award-winner was invited to present their presentation at the 13th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Panama City Beach, FL.

The purpose of the USARC is to teach skills, through challenging outdoor therapeutic recreation programs, that help to open doors of opportunity to persons with disabilities. The 2009 “Take ‘Em Boating” grant will be used by the USARC to collaborate with three California public schools in providing 200 kayak lessons free of charge. The goals of the program are to enable teachers to safely utilize their local lake as an extension of the environmental education classroom for children with special needs and to enable students to develop the lifelong recreation skill of kayaking.

The National Safe Boating Council’s “Take ‘Em Boating” grant was developed to promote and create interest in boating for future generations. Funded by the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) Foundation on behalf of the former employees of the OMC, the grant seeks to continue their legacy and interest in boating safety, environmental awareness, and the marine industry.

“This program is an excellent selection for this year’s grant,” said NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers. “It’s very representative of what this grant stands for – getting our youth out on the water and in boats, allowing kids to create a life-long relationship with the outdoors.”

The \$5,000 is awarded annually to the selected youth program that gets kids ages 6-18 safely into boating while promoting the future of the marine industry through environmental education, safety awareness, and boating enjoyment. The “Take ‘Em Boating” grant was established by the NSBC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, that is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC is comprised of over 330 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations, and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.