



Skipper Club™ | BEASKIPPER.ORG
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

PROVIDER KIT

Powerboat training for teens ages 13-19, Skipper Club™! Skipper Club provides teens ages 13-19 with on-water instruction for essential powerboating skills and maneuvers. In partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and local partners, the National Safe Boating Council developed Skipper Club to build the next generation of safe boaters through on-water training and continued program opportunities in local communities.

Skipper Club is taught by NSBC certified instructors to ensure teens are receiving the best powerboat knowledge and skills advancing from close-quarters to open water boat control. The curriculum is adapted from the NSBC's Close Quarters and Open Water Boat Control program, divided into four modules designed to cover all elements of EDU-1 On-Water Power Standards, the American National Standard for on-water, recreational powerboating skills. A student must complete all four modules to meet the ANS standard. Each module is approximately 3 hours long, but time length may vary depending on the age and boating experience of the student. *Please note, this is not a certification program.*

Boat Control On-Water Training for Teens

- Module 1: Introduction to Powerboating
- Module 2: Precision Docking and Boat Handling
- Module 3: Open Water Boat Handling
- Module 4: Open Water Advanced Maneuvers

Students will progress through terminology, equipment, steering, stopping, turns up to 180-degree, docking, ferrying, avoidance turns, person overboard and retrieval. They will also learn boating safety concepts and design features of the boat, as well as the importance of anticipating the reaction of current, weather and wind while boating. Each student will be assessed on their boat operation skills and receive recognition at the completion of this program. Prior to taking the course, students are required to complete a NASBLA-approved online boating safety course as well as meet the legal requirements of the state where the course is being held.

Social and leadership skills are a tremendous byproduct of Skipper Club. Join us as we shape the next generation of recreational boaters. If you are a NSBC certified instructor and interested in offering the Skipper Club program in your community, please contact Peg Phillips at pPhillips@safeboatingcouncil.org or call 703-361-4294.



Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.



HOW TO IMPLEMENT

Launching Skipper Club™. Thank you for joining the National Safe Boating Council in providing a fun and safe recreational boating experience and teaching the next generation of safe powerboaters. Here's what you'll need:

- NSBC certified instructor to teach the course modules, report courses, maintain certification
- Single engine boat to teach skills at idle speed
- Point-person for locally marketing and managing your Skipper Club
- Passion for teaching the next generation of safe powerboaters

Please coordinate with Peg Phillips at pPhillips@safeboatingcouncil.org or call 703-361-4294 to launch Skipper Club in your local community.

Available resources in this Provider Kit:

- Marketing resources such as a program overview, co-branded logo, window sign, banner, powerboat templates, posters and ads, stickers, social media images and videos, press release template, student certificates, and more
- Ideas to promote the Skipper Club through your network and facilities
- Helpful tips for teaching teens



MARKETING RESOURCES Verified Skipper Club™ Providers will receive a link to download materials.

Logo

*Contact NSBC for a co-branded logo



Instructor Logo



Window Sign



Banner



PPT Layouts



Posters and Ads



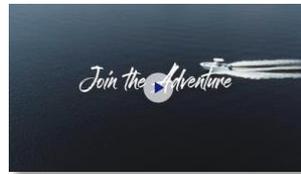
Social Media Images

*More designs available



Social Media Promotion Videos

*More designs available



Social Media Promotion Card



Stickers



T-Shirts

*More designs available



Hats

*More designs available



Press Release Template

Share about becoming a Skipper Club provider with your local media, on your website, or promote on social media

Newsletter Header Images

*More designs available



Completion Certificates

* To receive from NSBC





PROVIDER PROMOTION IDEAS

Thank you for supporting Skipper Club™! As a provider of the National Safe Boating Council's Skipper Club, we thank you for helping us teach teens valuable safe boating skills and train the next generation of safe boaters. Below you will find some ideas for promoting the program through your network and facilities.

- 1. Provider signs.** Display in windows/storefronts and highly visible areas at parks and marinas.
- 2. Information displays.** Include information at kiosks, on bulletin boards and other places where you post activities and events.
- 3. Communications.** Include Skipper Club information in any e-newsletters or printed newsletters you publish, directing them to beaskipper.org or your website for more information. Post information on your social channels and tag the National Safe Boating Council in your posts (@safeboatingcouncil on Twitter; @nationalsafeboatingcouncil on Facebook). Use **#heyskipper** and **#beaskipper** in your posts to increase engagement.
- 4. Outreach events.** Host a Skipper Club branded table or booth in a prominent location at marinas/parks during busy summer weekends (Memorial Day; July 4th; Labor Day). Someone who is familiar with the program should be at the table/booth and information about the program should be available along with giveaways (Skipper Club branded merchandise available for purchase from the NSBC).
- 5. Selfie stations.** During these special events, consider including a selfie station and encourage teens to post a photo with **#heyskipper** and **#beaskipper**. Host an Instagram Live or Facebook Live feed of people at the booth or ambassadors interacting with potential skippers and include the hashtags for engagement.
- 6. Teen ambassadors.** Teens who complete the program are our best ambassadors! Ask an ambassador to share their experience with the Skipper Club training. Consider an incentive for securing a specific number of registrations.
- 7. Raffle.** Consider conducting a raffle among teens who register for the program and giveaway valuable items such as a Skipper Club t-shirt or a life jacket.
- 8. More opportunities.** Provide networking and additional on-water experiences for Skipper Club members after they complete the course modules to keep them engaged.



TIPS FOR TEACHING TEENS

Welcome, NSBC certified instructors! Skipper Club™ is taught by NSBC certified instructors to ensure teens are receiving the best powerboat knowledge and skills advancing from close-quarters to open water boat control.

Skipper Club™ provides teens ages 13-19 with on-water instruction for essential powerboating skills and maneuvers. The curriculum is adapted from the National Safe Boating Council's Close Quarters and Open Water Boat Control program. It is divided into four modules that are designed to cover all elements of EDU-1 On-Water Power Standards, the American National Standard for on-water, recreational powerboating skills. A student must complete all four modules to meet the ANS standard. Each module is approximately 3 hours long, but time length may vary depending on the age and boating experience of the student. It is taught in a 5:1 student-instructor ratio.

During the on-water course, teens will be led through a step-by-step progression focusing on terminology, equipment, steering straight, stopping, turns up to 180-degree, docking, ferrying, avoidance turns, person overboard and retrieval.

A single engine boat should be used to teach skills at idle speed. Instructors and students must wear a life jacket while on-water during the course, and an engine cut-off device must be used on the powerboat.

Remember, each student must complete a NASBLA-approved online boating safety course as well as meet the legal requirements of the state where the course is being held prior to beginning the course.

Happy boating! **#heyskipper #beaskipper**

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- 1. Safety first.** Set the example that safety on and near the water always comes first. Non-slip shoes, life jackets, sun protection, no running, be aware of your surroundings, no cell phones during class. Watch out for each other.
 - 2. Talk like an adult, but remember they're still children.** Teens hate to be patronized, so use the same tone you do with adults, and be respectful and calm.
 - 3. Give step-by-step directions.** Ask and demonstrate the skill in small steps. Teens have short attention spans, so take consideration to recognize if your class needs to have a lesson broken down into mini-lessons. If an activity is too long, students won't remember what you said.



4. **Be mindful of “boating” speak.** While the goal is for the teens to understand nautical terms, this may be their first exposure to nautical terms. Take time to explain nautical terms in layman’s terms.
5. **Be proactive, not reactive.** Remind students often of expectations and consequences, and apply consequences consistently. Safety is always first. If behaving inappropriately repeated, the teen will be removed from the class.
6. **Encourage and validate successes.** Encourage students with sincere appreciation as they are learning, and when the class accomplishes a skill, celebrate!
7. **Model the behavior you desire.** Beyond modeling boating expertise and safety, set the tone for the class with your behavior. If you’re sarcastic and impatient, students will be sullen and resentful. When you use an angry voice or yell, conflict will escalate.
8. **Graciously admit when you’re wrong.** If you don’t, students can’t wait to prove you wrong. By admitting an error, apologizing, and moving on, we show our students how we learn from our mistakes.
9. **Make it fun.** The goal of our teen powerboating training is to create a lifelong love for boating. Make it fun!



TIPS FOR COURSE PREPARATION AND STUDENT EVALUATION

- 1. Know the Boat.** You should always operate the training boat prior to performing the skills to ensure you understand the handling characteristics of that particular boat. Identify any missing or inoperative equipment, quirks or flaws it may have and determine if they constitute a safety issue. This is especially important to understand at speed when the boat is planing. In evaluating, know if the boat is stable and operates normally, and if it has any deficiencies or issues that can increase risk. Make sure the boat is in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal boating laws. Attempt to mitigate all risks present to ensure a safe and enjoyable training day!
- 2. Know the Curriculum.** It is paramount that you train our students in accordance with the established curriculum using the best practices available to you. Your training and experience are invaluable assets to this program and subsequent mentoring of our young students in the Skipper Club program. Working with teenagers in an instructional setting can be challenging and requires a certain skill set.
- 3. Set the Tone.** As a NSBC Instructor, you wear many hats. You are an educator, a mentor, a leader, an influencer and a role model. Set an immediate presence of being in charge. Be firm, but congenial. Set the bar high for an expectation of quality learning with an emphasis on safety and risk management. Be sensitive to any learning, physical disabilities or limitations a student may have.
- 4. Recognize Learning Styles.** You should recognize the four types of learning behavior your students will exhibit. You may have a mix of visual learners, auditory learners, reading and writing learners and kinesthetic or hands on learners. Be prepared to observe your students and orient your presentation as needed to include these learning styles to keep each student engaged. The Skipper Club training format includes memory skills such as terminology, navigation rules and boating laws interspersed with a significant amount of hands-on training. Some students are good book learners, but may need more hands-on repetition to demonstrate the skills.
- 5. Teach Skills Sequentially.** Training will include you presenting the skills one at a time in sequence as they build on each other in a progression. Deliver the skill as it is defined in the curriculum. Ensure everyone understands the skill as each student rotates through the hands-on evolution. Guide them as necessary to ensure the skill is being performed correctly, but allow the student to maneuver with as much freedom as is safely possible to make mistakes and learn through discovery. Evaluate and give feedback as necessary to ensure the skill is performed safely and correctly. Frequent feedback or evaluations and additional instruction are vital to achieving success. Experiencing success leads to better self-esteem and motivation.

- 6. Evaluate Skills.** The Skipper Club curriculum is based on the excellent and time proven skills taken from the Open Water and Close Quarters Boat Control courses. These courses have been approved and conform to the American National Standard. As the instructor you are charged with delivering these skills as a certified National Safe Boating Council Instructor. After presentation of each skill, you must determine whether each student is ready to advance to the next skill. Understanding the different learning types as outlined above, you must determine with accuracy and confidence whether each candidate is ready to advance to the next skill. This curriculum defines a lot of close quarters, technical skills. It is imperative that all skills be demonstrated with understanding and a safe and practical performance of the skill. Since this course is designed around a process of building on preceding skills, it is necessary to ensure that each one is a building block and must be presented by you and demonstrated with confidence by the student.
- 7. Trust Your Instinct.** It is not uncommon to have a very intuitive learner who grasps the skill in its entirety quickly, while others will take more time and may require extra hands-on repetition to acquire the competency to move forward. This evaluative insight is necessary to determine if your instruction has been understood by all students and if they are ready to move forward to the next skill as a group. Our goal is to have all of our students learn enough to demonstrate adequate competence and confidence to complete all skills and finish the course.
- 8. Know Student Ability.** As the course progresses the skills get more challenging, thus riskier. In order to safely transition from displacement mode to planing mode, each student shall demonstrate a minimum level of competence as the difficulty and risk increase with the speed. The instructor shall present in detail the riskier skills at speed and demonstrate them at the helm so the students know what to expect. Be ready to stop the evolution or take over the helm if necessary, to avoid any dangerous situation. This is not a course everyone can do because it is technical and fast moving; you must be able to determine that! If a student is not capable of performing in a dynamic situation it may be best for all concerned to stop and re-evaluate. No student should be allowed or encouraged to perform above their demonstrated capability, it is not safe or prudent. Progressing through the four courses of Skipper Club may take a student multiple years to accomplish. Some students will progress through the courses over a four-day period. It is the role of the NSBC Instructor to evaluate each student independently and make the decision on whether the student has confidently demonstrated the skill and is ready to progress to the next level.



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