



Powerboat Sea Scouts

The Powerboat Sea Scouts endorsement was created and implemented with assistance from the National Safe Boating Council, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.

www.safeboatingcouncil.org/seascouts



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

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Powerboat Sea Scouts

The U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) teamed up to develop the Powerboat Sea Scouts endorsement. Training young and adventurous scouts in boat handling skills helps to encourage participation in the boating lifestyle with safety as a priority.

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A confident boater is a safer boater.  
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Powerboat Sea Scouts is conducted in a controlled on-water environment using the NSBC's third-party verified Boat Control On-Water Training curriculum

– which meets the American National Standards for Power. It is taught by a qualified adult instructor in a ratio of one instructor to four scouts. The curriculum follows a progressive approach through four modules that begins with practicing maneuvers at idle speed, advances to displacement mode, then finally operating while on plane.

All participants are required to have a valid boat operator certificate, as well as meet the legal requirements of the state where Powerboat Sea Scouts is being held. Powerboat Sea Scouts is open to qualified Sea Scouts ages 13 and up. Completion of Powerboat Sea Scouts sets the stage for additional on-water powerboat training. Powerboat Sea Scouts is not a boating certification. Please check current Sea Scouts prerequisite requirements before beginning the endorsement.



Boat Control On-Water Training

The Powerboat Sea Scouts endorsement provides a foundation for those Scouts who continue to participate in recreational powerboating. On-water powerboat training can play a critical role in preventing a boating accident and make your time on the water more enjoyable.

The NSBC's Boat Control On-Water Training curriculum is taught in four modules, designed to cover all elements of EDU-1 On-Water Power Standards, the

American National Standard for on-water, recreational powerboating skills. The curriculum makes this progression through the four modules, so the modules must be taught in order.

Participants will progress through the modules, advancing skills with each module. Scouts will focus on terminology, equipment, steering straight, stopping, turns up to 180-degree, docking, ferrying, avoidance turns, person overboard, and retrieval. Each module is approximately 3 hours long, but time length may vary depending on the age and boating experience of each participant.

A participant must complete all four modules to meet the ANS standard:

1

Module One
Introduction
to Powerboating

2

Module Two
Precision Docking and
Boat Handling

3

Module Three
Open Water
Boat Handling

4

Module Four
Open Water
Advanced Maneuvering

Powerboat Safety

Operating a powerboat is an advanced boating activity. Each module will begin with a pre-departure checklist and safety briefing. This will include inspection of boat systems and safety equipment, monitoring weather conditions and forecast, discussing any potential hazards or conditions in the area, and more.

All participants are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times, including while at the dock and on the boat. An engine cut-off switch must be used. Additional safety guidelines are outlined within each module's lesson plan.

Completion of the Powerboat Sea Scouts requirements provides participants with the foundation and experience to continue to participate in on-water training and a lifetime of safe boating.

Qualified Instructor

Your Powerboat Sea Scouts experience will be conducted by an experienced instructor following standards established by the National Safe Boating Council and additional Sea Scouts guidelines provided in the Information for Instructors section of this brochure.

While you may feel confident after completing the requirements of Powerboat Sea Scouts, you should not offer or accept any invitation to instruct others in powerboating. Any powerboating excursions in your unit must be supervised by qualified adults.

Personal Health Review

Your Powerboat Sea Scouts instructor will ask you to complete the Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001. Certain responses on that form may require that you get a physician's approval before you are allowed to participate in the on-water program. Those with chronic disease or physical disability may still be able to enjoy and benefit from a powerboating experience if the instructor is aware of the condition and approval has been obtained from a licensed physician.

Discipline

Safety procedures are effective only when they are followed. It is the joint responsibility of both the powerboating instructor and each participant to maintain safe attitudes and actions. Your instructor and other participants should both be able to assume that you are trustworthy, helpful, and obedient.

Environmental Conditions

Instruction for Powerboat Sea Scouts will be conducted in a single engine boat in conditions outlined within each module. Given the variables of weather, wind, current, and facilities, it may be necessary for the instructor to adapt or alter the skills progression. If the day of the course is breezy, the calm condition skills must be adapted or omitted. Likewise, if there is no wind, or no current, some skills must be altered or omitted. Learning how to deal with such variables is an important aspect of powerboating.

Emergency Preparedness

Safety when operating a powerboat is of the utmost importance. Always wearing a life jacket when on or near the water is required. Additionally, using an engine cut-off switch is required throughout each module. Your instructor will go over pre-departure checklists and additional safety information that must be followed. This will include making and sharing a float plan with a trusted loved one before leaving the dock, with all trip itinerary information such as operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board. This will help search and rescue assets if needed in an emergency to quickly locate the boat. More information is available in the Information for Instructors section of this brochure.

Standards for Power

Powerboat Sea Scouts covers all elements of EDU-1 On-Water Power Standards, the American National Standard for on-water, recreational powerboating skills. It is imperative that the Boat Control On-Water curriculum is adhered to; there can be no modifications or variations as that would change the course verification. Learn more at www.usnows.org.

Safety first! Always begin with a pre-launch checklist and safety briefing.

Pre-launch Checklist

Prior to launch, the instructor will lead participants through a detailed pre-launch checklist and safety briefing. This includes, but not limited to:

- ✓ **Reminder that all participants must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times**
- ✓ **Explain why an engine cut-off switch must be used by the boat operator**
- ✓ **Inspection of boat systems and safety equipment**
- ✓ **Obtain weather conditions and forecast**
- ✓ **Discuss any potential hazards or conditions in the area**
- ✓ **Explain how to safely enter and move about the boat with three points of contact maintaining stability**

Weather

The instructor and participants will check the weather frequently before and during each module, keeping an eye on current conditions and later forecast. They will heed any warnings, and avoid navigating in those areas. The National Weather Service (NOAA Weather Radio) broadcasts can be found on marine band and standalone weather radios.

Communication

Different types of communications equipment work in different areas, so a boater should make sure the equipment they have will work where they are boating. A boater should carry at least two communication devices that will work when wet. Do not rely on your cell phone alone to work and have service when in an emergency or navigation situation. A boat operator should know what works best in the local area. A VHF radio, satellite phone, EPIRB, and personal locator beacon can all be important communication devices in an emergency. Remember, always file a float plan before hitting the water.

Navigation Rules

While participants will be taught boat control skills throughout the Powerboat Sea Scouts program, it is imperative they have a prior knowledge of navigation rules. It is important to follow all navigation rules and direction from an instructor. It is the boat operator's responsibility to know what's going on around you at all times and travel at safe speeds for the environment. All participants are required to have a valid boat operator certificate, and meet the legal requirements of the state where Powerboat Sea Scouts is being held.



Clothing

Participants should dress for the weather, wearing layers if cooler weather, and bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet. Closed-toe shoes are required. Shirts with sun protection are recommended. Never wear your life jacket under your clothing. Be sure to remember sun protection; always wear sunscreen and bring sunglasses and a hat.

Other Gear

It's important to have and know how to use required equipment while boating to ensure a safe and successful trip. The powerboat will have successfully passed a Vessel Safety Check (VSC), a courtesy examination of the boat to verify the presence and condition of certain safety equipment required by state and federal regulations. The boat will have a VSC decal. This check may include life jackets, visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, navigation lights, and more.



Remember, every time when on or near the water, all participants are required to wear a life jacket.



Additionally, when operating a powerboat, an engine cut-off switch must be used to reduce the risk of propeller strike.

Feedback

Following participation in Powerboat Sea Scouts, the instructor and participants should complete an electronic evaluation form to provide helpful information to the National Safe Boating Council and U.S. Coast Guard. This is available at www.safeboatingcouncil.org/seascouts.



National Safe Boating Council



Founded in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) serves as a national catalyst for developing a safe boating culture by providing educational resources, outreach programming, and training opportunities for industry partners and the boating community to influence safe, secure, and responsible boating.

The NSBC recommends all boaters participate in instruction and education prior to launching. Powerboat Sea Scouts teaches participants valuable boat handling skills and prepares the next generation of safe boaters.

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Powerboat Sea Scouts Application

Please complete this form and share with your Ship's leader.

Name of applicant:

Age:

Unit No.:

City:

Name of completed Boat Operator Certificate Course:

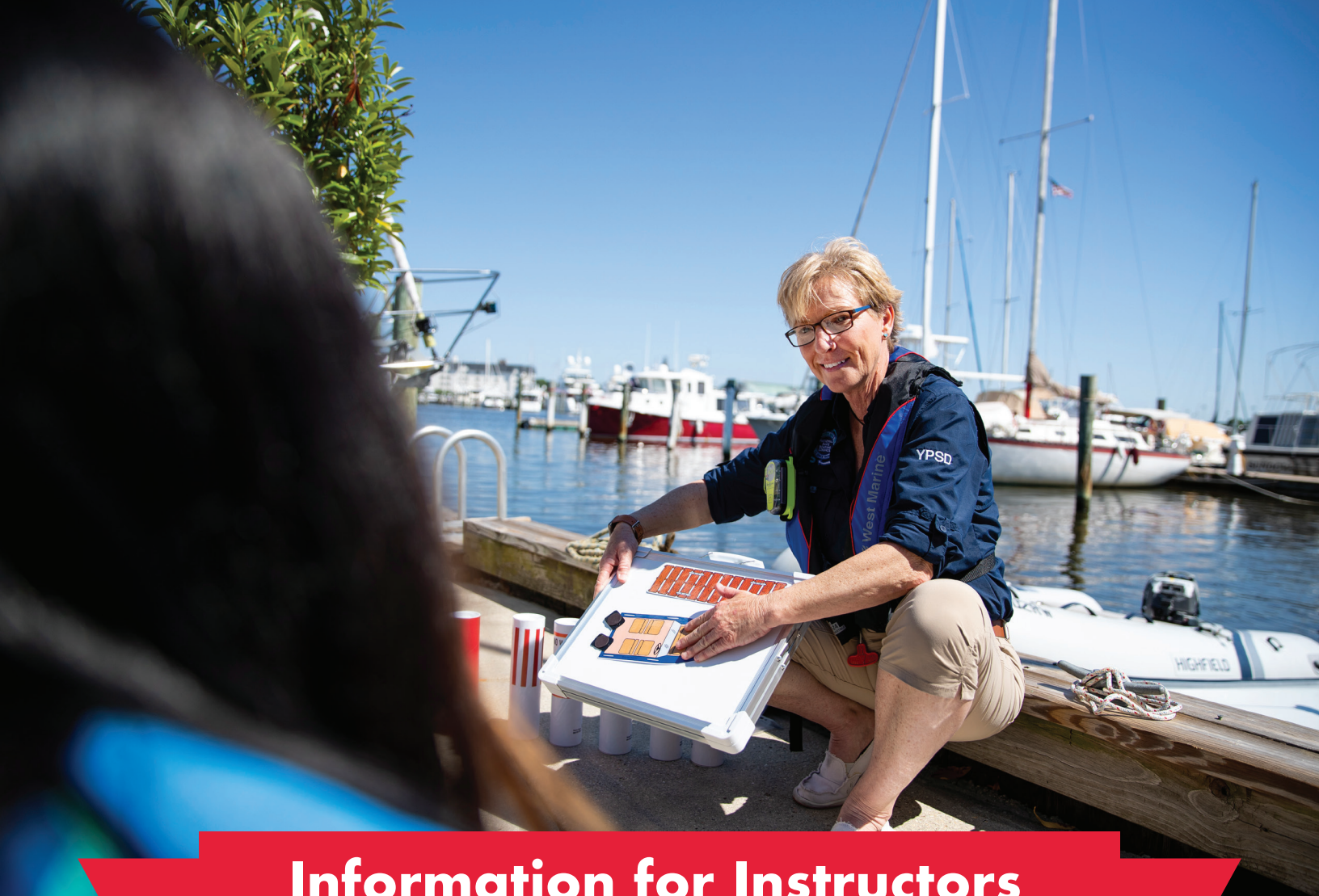
Brief description of powerboating skill-level:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Complete the Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001

By participating in Powerboat Sea Scouts, all participants release the National Safe Boating Council and U.S. Coast Guard from any and all liabilities, claims, actions, and causes of actions whatsoever arising out of or relating to any loss, damage or injury and including death, which may be sustained by the participant or of any property of the participant. This release is binding upon distributees, heirs, next of kin, executors, and administrators of the participant.



Information for Instructors

Only qualified instructors may teach the Powerboat Sea Scouts endorsement. All instructors are required to hold a valid boating safety certificate, as well as meet the legal requirements of the state where Powerboat Sea Scouts is being held. An instructor must know the NSBC's Boat Control On-Water curriculum and be confident in teaching all skills and maneuvers. It is highly recommended the instructor also becomes a National Safe Boating Council certified instructor.



Available Resources

The National Safe Boating Council has developed resources for Sea Scout leaders and adult volunteers to support the local implementation of Powerboat Sea Scouts.

These resources are available at www.safeboatingcouncil.org/seascouts.

Powerboat Sea Scouts overview

Download a PDF of this brochure to share with Scouts in your local community.

Lesson plans

Download detailed lesson plans, including safety checklists, for each course module.

Instructional videos

Watch instructional videos for each module, with tips for safely teaching participants on skills and maneuvers.

Course completion certificates

Individuals completing the Powerboat Sea Scout requirements may be presented with a course completion certificate. They may receive a certificate for each module as they

progress through the program, and at the end if they successfully completed all four modules. Qualified instructors may download, print, and complete the completion certificate at www.safeboatingcouncil.org/seascouts.

Course feedback

Following participation in Powerboat Sea Scouts, the instructor and participants should complete an electronic evaluation form. Links for the course feedback is available at www.safeboatingcouncil.org/seascouts for the instructor to share with participants.

Marketing toolkit

Download resources to recruit more Scouts and build awareness of Powerboat Sea Scouts.



Safety Reminders

Eligibility

All participants are required to have a valid boat operator certificate, and meet the legal requirements of the state where Powerboat Sea Scouts is being held. Powerboat Sea Scouts is open to qualified Sea Scouts ages 13 and up. Completion of Powerboat Sea Scouts sets the stage for additional on-water powerboat training. Powerboat Sea Scouts is not a boating certification.

Curriculum

The National Safe Boating Council's Boat Control On-Water Training Modules 1-4 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. It is important that the instructor know the curriculum and is confident in teaching of all skills and maneuvers. Each module is approximately 3 hours long, but time length may vary depending on the age and boating experience of the participants.

Boat

A single engine, center console powerboat is recommended. The boat must be in good condition, and the instructor should be confident in operating the boat.

Environmental conditions

Given the variables of weather, wind, current, and facilities, it may be necessary for the instructor to adapt or alter the skills progression. If the day of the course is breezy, the calm condition skills must be adapted or omitted. Likewise, if there is no wind, or no current, some skills must be altered or omitted. Instructor should be prepared to postpone the course if needed.

Pre-departure checklist

The instructor must guide the participants in a thorough pre-departure checklist for the boat they will be using. Use the provided checklist in each module. Ensure the boat has all required safety equipment that are readily accessible.

Safety briefing

The instructor must lead the participants in a safety briefing, including a reminder to always wear a life jacket, be respectful of one another, to listen to all instructions, be aware of your surroundings, file a float plan, check the weather, and more.

Weather

The instructor and participants will check the weather frequently before and during each module, keeping an eye on current conditions and later forecast. They will heed any warnings, and avoid navigating in those areas. The National Weather Service (NOAA Weather Radio) broadcasts can be found on marine band and standalone weather radios.

Life jackets

All participants are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times, including while at the dock and on the boat. This includes instructors and scouts.

Engine cut-off switch

It is the instructor's responsibility to confirm that the boat operator has properly attached the ECOS – or engine cut-off switch. You will have to complete this task any time the boat operator's switch out. If, for any reason, the ECOS is removed, the propeller will stop. Stand next to your student as they take the boat operator position. It is important to train the students on the importance of using the ECOS and how it saves lives.

Carbon monoxide

Always use a marine CO detector. Exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) in large amounts or even small amounts for a long duration often results in death. CO is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, and deadly gas in the exhaust produced by gasoline engines. Boats release CO through the exhaust ports of vessels that are idling, underway, or running generators. This can be a hazard specifically in repeated close-quarters maneuvers, so a CO detector worn by the instructor is advised. When inhaled, CO rapidly replaces oxygen in tissues.