

# BOATING SAFETY ACTIVITIES

## EDUCATION AND FUN WITH A PURPOSE

### PASS IT ON!—Share what you know.

#### Activity:


The instructor, using the artwork provided online at [www.SafeBoatingCouncil.com](http://www.SafeBoatingCouncil.com), produces carry-along boating safety cards containing the “4 Principles of Safe Boating.” The instructor explains each of the principles. Participants are asked to take ten cards. They are asked to give two cards each to four of their boating friends and keep two for themselves. Each participant should ask each of the four friends to “pass along” one of the cards to friends of theirs that boat.



### PASS IT ON!—PART 2

#### Activity:

Separate the participants into two teams. Give each team a checklist. This checklist incorporates a mix of the minimum required equipment and also recommended equipment to boat. From there each participant on each team individually selects what they determine is on the minimum requirement list. The checklist is passed to the next team member and to the next. The last team member passes it to the instructor. At the end of the timed round, the instructor specifies how many correct items were identified. If neither of the teams has a complete checklist, the activity proceeds with another timed round. None of the team members should share information.



**4 Principles of Safe Boating**

1. Wearing life jackets saves lives.
2. Boater education saves lives.
3. Safe boats save lives.
4. Sober boating saves lives.

[www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com](http://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com)

#### Purpose:

To show participants that the combination of a minimal amount of effort with good, basic common-sense safety principles can be infectious. Sharing information doesn't have to be on board or in a formal setting to be effective. Sometimes the power of suggestion (to wear a life jacket at all times) contained on a card can be a powerful way of sharing. A persuasive way to “PASS IT ON.”

#### Purpose:

In keeping with the process to “pass it on,” the teams have a common goal (to provide a complete list) but with individual attempts. The emphasis is that while safe boating is based on common knowledge, each operator is responsible for what he/she knows.

## IMPORTANT

When presenting an activity on life jackets and boating safety, one basic goal is to promote awareness of the importance of wearing a life jacket while involved in boating and water-related sports. They must know how to use them correctly and feel comfortable with their use. If a person feels comfortable in the life jacket and is familiar with what it can do, chances of survival increase. Remember, particularly with in-water activities, a life jacket should NOT be considered a substitute for swimming ability. A life jacket is an aid to buoyancy. Swimming skills are still the basic ingredient to water safety.

These activities can be adapted for different situations with different age groups. Permit the group to get comfortable in the water before starting the activity. You should always be in a position to observe everyone in the pool, or you may assign others to be safety observers.

Safety, when in the water, using boating equipment or participating in demonstrations is of the utmost importance. Precautions for selected activities and participants are the responsibility of the presenter.

Produced under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop/Breaux) Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

