

# OUT-OF-WATER ACTIVITIES

## LIFE JACKETS: FUN WITH A PURPOSE.

### *Out-of-water activity #1* Life Jacket Relay

*Sally and Ben are having fun with this relay and also learning an important boating safety lesson.*

**Activity:** Divide the participants into two or more groups having at least six members each. Each group will have at least one life jacket. On the “go” signal, the first participant of each group will put on a properly-fitted life jacket and run or walk from the starting line to a traffic cone, marker, or other point and back. As the first person from each group returns, they take off the life jacket and help put it on the next participant who runs or walks to the marker and returns. Continue this until all the participants have completed the event. An option for the younger participants is to have them pretend they are performing some type of swimming stroke as they walk to the markers.

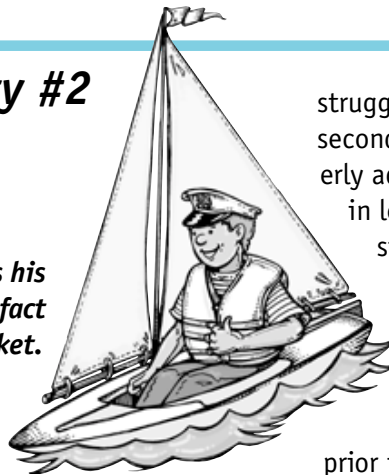
**Purpose:** Having fun while becoming familiar with life jacket usage comes together in this activity. Stress the importance of everyone in a boat having and wearing a life jacket because in the event you and others are thrown overboard



and into the water, there’s no way to effectively share a life jacket. If the participants emulate swimming strokes, reinforce the aspect that being a capable swimmer is no substitute for a life jacket.

### *Out-of-water activity #2* TITANIC— Not the Movie

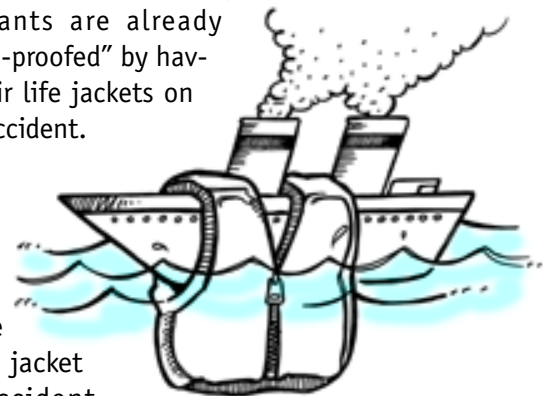
*Ahoy knows that if his craft sinks his first element of preparation is the fact he is already wearing his life jacket.*



**Activity:** Set four chairs in two rows to represent seating inside a boat. Choose four participants to be boat passengers, and sit them in the chairs. Place a life jacket under each seat. To make the demonstration more realistic, turn the life jackets inside-out and have the straps tangled. At your signal, the “boat” starts to sink, and the participants should try to see how quickly they can correctly put on their life jackets. At the end of 60 seconds, determine which of them have their life jackets on and which may be

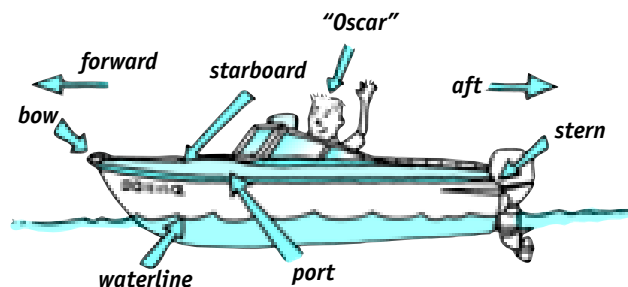
struggling if they were in the water. Repeat the activity a second time after the devices are all untangled and properly adjusted. Encourage the participants to get them on in less than 30 seconds. As a last round of this demonstration, have all the volunteers leave their devices on and properly adjusted. As the boat starts to sink the third time, the point is made that the occupants are already “drown-proofed” by having their life jackets on prior to the accident.

**Purpose:** This activity helps participants realize that it is best to be wearing a life jacket before an accident happens.



## Out-of-water activity #3 Egg Carton Craft or a "Poultry Pontoon"

Oscar knows that his Mom's boat uses flotation and buoyancy to stay afloat in water. Similarly flotation in the form of a life jacket is what keeps you from sinking.



**Activity:** Instruct each participant on how to make their own "egg carton craft."

Here's what you need:

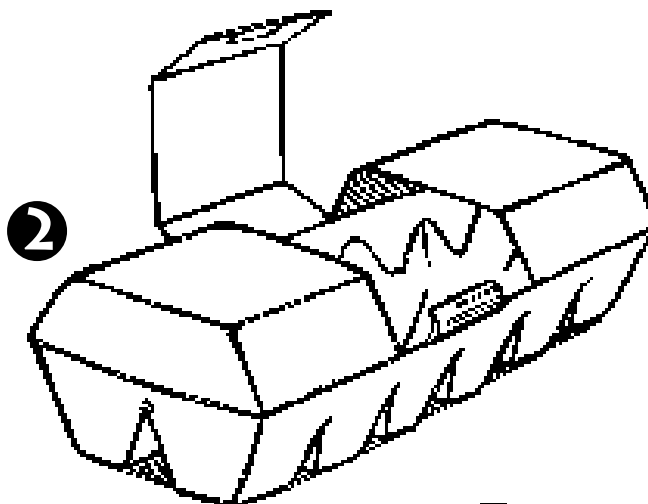
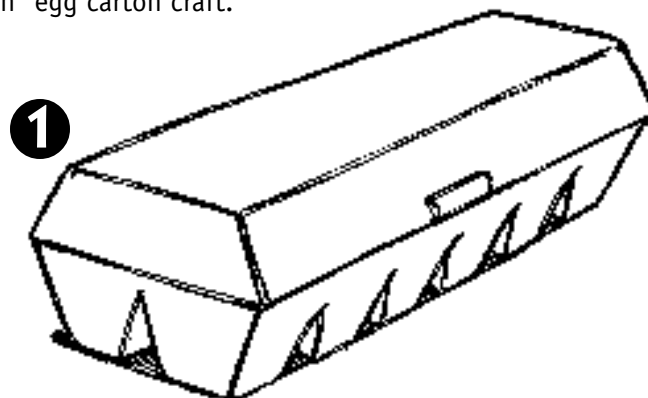
- one dozen egg cartons (preferably foam-base cartons)
- black markers
- tape
- scissors
- tub of water
- hard-boiled eggs
- red and green markers (optional)

Each carton's lid should be cut to expose the center four egg holders in the carton (see diagram). Use tape to secure the two portions of the remaining lid to the carton base. This is your craft. Using a marker, draw a windshield in front of one end of the opening to help identify the bow of the boat. Again use the marker to identify the bow, port, starboard and stern directions of the boat. As an option, use the green and red markers to emulate the boating lights on the bow (front) of the boat.

Creativity and fun come together when as an option, you let the participants use the markers to identify their operators and passengers (hard-boiled eggs). The egg carton craft is then used in water to show the importance of flotation and buoyancy. Balance and loading of passengers can also be underscored with this example.

With each boat's directions identified, "rules of the road" can also be depicted with this craft. Proper approaches for situations such as meeting head-on, crossing and overtaking (passing) can easily be shown with two or more craft.

As a learning tool, the egg carton craft is only limited by the extent of your activity's curriculum.



**Purpose:** This activity demonstrates the elements of flotation and that just as one must wear a life jacket as a flotation aid in water, a boat (or craft) works on very much the same principles. In addition, boating is about having fun, but understanding that safe fun is achieved through knowledge about the waters you plan to boat and the boats in which you plan to have fun.

[www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org)



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