

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT BOATING SAFETY:

- There are more safety variables on the water than on highways: weather, waves, tides and currents, water levels, large boat traffic and other concerns that you need to be aware of before going out on the water.
- The number of registered boats has more than doubled since 1985, adding to greater congestion on some waterways.
- There is a growing variety of faster, more powerful, motorized watercraft on the waterways.
- Many vessels are operated by inexperienced boaters with little or no knowledge of the "rules of the road."
- Check the age phase in chart in this brochure to see when you need to get your card.

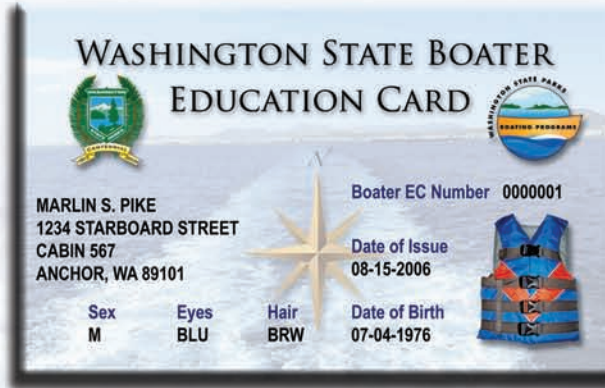
For more information, check the State Parks Web site:

WWW.PARKS.WA.GOV/BOATING



**GO BOATING!
HAVE FUN!
AND,
WEAR YOUR
LIFE JACKET!**

GET ON BOARD! GET YOUR BOATER CARD TODAY!



For more information, visit online
at www.parks.wa.gov/boating or contact:
Information Center
(360) 902-8844
infocenter@parks.wa.gov

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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for the enjoyment of all people.*

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(360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications
Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

MANDATORY BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

for Washington Boaters



BOATING PROGRAMS

Rev 03/10

MANDATORY BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

for Washington Boaters

The Washington state Mandatory Boating Safety Education law requires boaters ages 12 years and older to pass a boating safety course or an equivalency exam and obtain a Boater Education Card before operating a motorized vessel of 15 horsepower or greater.

How do I qualify for a Boater Education Card?

You must be at least 12 years old to apply. You must take a course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. You can take a classroom, online or home-study course. Also, boaters with a lot of boating experience may take an equivalency exam. For more information, visit online at www.parks.wa.gov/boating or call (360) 902-8844.

How can I get my Boater Education Card?

After successful completion of an approved course or exam, you must complete a Boater Education Card Application. To get an application form, visit online at www.parks.wa.gov/boating. Complete and mail the application with a copy of your course completion certificate and \$10 to the address given on the application.

How much does a Boater Education Card cost?

The initial cost is \$10. A replacement card is \$5. Please note: Cards purchased from online course providers may be subject to an additional handling fee.

When will I receive my Boater Education Card?

Once your application and supporting documents are received, it takes approximately six weeks to process the application.

Is my Boater Education Card good in other states and Canada that have mandatory boating education requirements?

Yes.

Is my Oregon Boater Education Card valid in Washington?

Yes. If you are visiting Washington for less than 60 consecutive days, your Oregon card is valid. If you become a Washington resident, your Oregon Boater Education Card can be used to apply for a Washington card. There is a \$10 fee with this application.

When will I need to carry my Boater Education Card?

The card requirement is being phased in from 2008 through 2014. Boaters in the age groups below will need to have their cards on them when operating a boat starting Jan. 1 of the year noted:

Year	Age Group
2010	12 years to 30 years old
2011	35 years and younger
2012	40 years and younger
2013	50 years and younger
2014	59 years and younger
After 2014	Card required for any person born Jan. 1, 1955 or later.

Do I have to wait to get my Boater Education Card until the year it is required?

No. If you have passed an approved course, you may apply for your card now. The Washington State Parks Boating Programs encourage boaters to get their cards as soon as possible.

Do all boat operators need a Boater Education Card?

Boaters born before Jan. 1, 1955, are exempt from this law. Other boaters may not be required to have a Boater Education Card. Please see the conditions below:

Other conditions
Operators of commercial fishing boats must have a valid commercial license or a Boater Education Card when operating a recreational vessel.
Operators with a valid U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) marine operator license must carry either the USCG license or a card when operating a recreational vessel.
Operators of government vessels exempt from state registration do not need a card when operating a government vessel, but they must have a card when operating a recreational vessel.
Operators of rented, leased or chartered vessels must have a copy of the State Parks-approved educational checklist or a card.
A person of any age practicing or engaging in a permitted racing event: A card is not needed as long as the event is permitted and permitting document is available for inspection at site of event.
An operator who is a resident of another state or country (with or without a valid card from that state or country): Card is not needed the first 60 consecutive days. After this, must have Washington state Boater Education Card.
A person purchasing a vessel: For the first 60 days after purchasing a vessel, the bill of sale showing date of purchase is valid in lieu of a card.
Operators ages 12 years and older without a card must be under the direct supervision of a person who is 16 years of age or older who has a Boater Education Card, unless exempt based on the conditions above.