

USPS Position on Boater Education and Licensing

BACKGROUND:

The United States Power Squadrons (USPS) has over 100 years of history supporting recreational boating safety through education and observing the positive benefit provided by educating boaters of all ages. Specifically USPS provides education opportunities to boaters of all ages and experience levels with favorable results. USPS has not observed any benefit from exempting any group of boaters from education requirements and thus believes that lessening education requirements would negatively affect boating safety.

Therefore: Members of United States Power Squadrons believe the best way to achieve boating safety is through education.

- USPS members support state mandatory boating education for all recreational boaters and personal watercraft operators.
- USPS members believe that all boating safety courses should be NASBLA approved and include proctored examinations.
- USPS members will continue to provide educational support in all states.
- USPS members believe that any state licensing of recreational boat operators should be based on strong educational requirements.
- Therefore it is the policy of USPS to oppose any lessening of the extent or application of recreational boating education requirements.

Approved by the Board of Directors April 5, 2014