



United States Power Squadrons®  
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## ABC3 FOR YOUTH General Guidelines



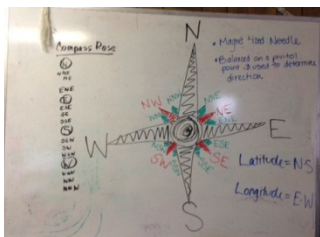
### **SLOW it down, but keep it fun and varied**

Underserved children from the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club on Graduation Day. Kevin Wing holds the squadron burgee awarded him for acing the test.

The ABC3 course can be taught successfully to students from 10 years upwards. Experience with even the sharpest 9-year-olds has shown they cannot understand some of the concepts and we do not want to 'dumb down' the class which lessens the achievement of others. We take four two-hour sessions to cover Chapters 1 thru 4 plus one for exam review and exam. Parents should be encouraged to attend and then supervise study at home.

Have at least one handout for each session – copied from the manual or the internet. Examples would be a drawing of a boat, a bowline, the vocabulary, a navigation aid.

Call them by name. Have cards with their names on to put in front of their desks. Taking a photo of them holding these is useful for future ID for any articles or other publicity.



Attention span will be less than with adults, so frequently vary method of teaching between PowerPoint, Q & A, reading text and having them draw a lesson (e.g. compass rose, boat, bad weather, PWCs.) Hand out stickers - Wear It! Stickers are free from [www.safeboatingcampaign.org](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.org)

A break for Oreos is always a good thing; think cake/ice cream/sodas for the last class.

Young students like to MOVE, so have them stand up with arms above their head and turn to port and then to starboard. Ask them to role-play situations.



Stress safety gear – sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, correct shoes (no flip flops), extra clothing,

Do whatever you can to get them out on the water – your boat, members’ boats, or ask a yacht club to arrange a ‘Big Boat Sail’ to take out students and families. First time on a boat may be scary, so ask what they think will happen and address any concerns. Learning can be reinforced on board. Make sure you look for sharks!



As with adults, a class is more dynamic with several instructors. P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN and R/C George Hallenbeck, AP teaching at a school in Stamford, CT.

Everyone loves learning knots!  
Ask them to go on line to Grog’s Animated Knots to practice at home. Hand out a diagram of the bowline.



Young students will not know many of the words, here are some. These can be taught separately and when they appear in the text, should be explained until they are familiar. Pay particular attention to blank looks – children often don’t acknowledge when they don’t understand a new word or concept.

Adrift	Clearance	Hull	Pyrotechnic
Anchor	Cockpit	Hypothermia	PWC
Aquatic	Current	Inclement	Right of way
Boom	Deck	Jib	Rudder
Bow	Draft	Keel	Starboard
Bowline	Gunwale	Line/rope	Stern
Bright work	Hailer	Mast	Tiller
Buoy	Hatch	Mainsail	Transom
Capsize	Hazard	PFD	Wake
Chart	Helm	Pivot	Waterline
Cleat	Hitch	Port	Wheel

***Engage, entertain and interact with the students as much possible.  
Ensure there’s a member of their school/organization in class with you.***

*P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN  
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