

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Am I required to have a boating safety education card?

A. Most states do require boaters to show proof of passing a NASBLA approved boating safety course, though it may be just certain age boaters or persons operating certain types of boats (especially Personal Watercraft (jet skis)). [Click here](#) to see your state boating education laws

Q. What is NASBLA?

A. NASBLA is the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. NASBLA is a non-profit organization funded by the U. S. Coast Guard. It's membership includes the Boating Law Administrator (BLA - a designated person in state government) from each of the 50 states and Territories.

Q. How do I know if I am allowed to take an online boating course to meet the requirements of my state?

A. If the course is NASBLA-approved, and accepted by your state BLA, then you can take it to meet your state requirements.

Q. What is the minimum age at which a person can take a boating safety course?

A. Age requirements are established by each individual state. Generally, any person age 10 years of age and older may take the course.

Q. How old must a person be in order to legally operate a motorboat?

A. Age requirements are established by each individual state. In most states, a person age 14 and older may operate a boat (16 to operate a Jet Ski). Check your state boating laws to ensure you are operating legally and with the proper education certificate. There are no states that have a minimum age or education requirement to operate a non-powered boat such as a canoe or kayak – but we do recommend everyone take a course to minimize the risk of injury and to ensure everyone knows the law.

Q. What type of boating safety course should I take?

A. The first question to ask yourself is “what is my style of learning”? If you like sitting in a classroom with a knowledgeable instructor who can answer questions, then the classroom may be your best choice. By NASBLA definition, a classroom course must be a minimum of 6-8 hours in duration (some states require more time).

If you like computer based training, then our [online course](#) is the right choice. The online course content contains the same information as the classroom course and our online course is the only one which includes a video segment at the beginning of each chapter, which really helps students see and hear the information. Our online courses have practice quizzes at the end of each chapter to emphasize the material and the final exam is randomly selected for each student.

Our [home study](#) courses contain the same information as the 6-8 hour classroom course, but are a self-study program whereby the students teach themselves. Our home study kit

includes the classroom book and a 64-minute DVD to help the student learn the material. The final exam is taken at home or on the internet, depending on the state course you are taking. The home study kit is a great value for families as a discount is offered when multiple persons use the same kit (ex. 1 kit can certify up to 5 individuals).

Q. How does the “American Boat Operator” course compare with other boating safety courses?

A. The “American Boat Operator” is the only course in the country written by a retired U.S. Coast Guard person who was also the NASBLA “Boating Safety Person of the Year” and team of experts whose years of Search and Rescue experience help you understand the fundamentals of recreational boating safety. Additionally, the “American Boat Operator” is the only online course that provides video at the beginning of each chapter to assist the student in seeing and hearing the “real” world of recreational boating. The course material is clear and concise, and written in an easy to follow sequence.

Q. How can I pay for the course?

A. We accept all major credit cards for the online course. Home study kits may be order by mail and paid for by check or money order. [Click here](#) for more information on our home study kit or to place an order.

Q. Is your site safe to use?

A. Your financial information is protected with industry-leading security and fraud prevention systems. When you use a credit card, your Transactions with this site (like information exchange, or purchases) are secure and 128-bit encrypted with industry-standard SSL (secure sockets layer) technology.

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