



PROCLAMATION
National Safe Boating Week
May 18 – May 24, 2024

For nearly 90 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, we want to bring special attention to this pastime and remind recreational boaters of a few tips to ensure that they and their loved ones are safe and responsible while exploring our nation's waterways.

Proper planning for a day of boating begins even before leaving home and getting a free vessel safety check, taking a safe boating course at the beginning of the boating season, filing a float plan with a trusted family member or friend, and checking the weather before boating are key steps to enjoy boating. Everyone should always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket while boating. Drowning remains the number one cause of death for recreational boaters each year, and most drowning victims in recreational boating accidents are not wearing a life jacket. Safe and responsible boating includes never operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and knowing basic navigation rules.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters to have a safer, more fun experience out on the water.

Whereas, on average, 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; approximately three-fourths of these are fatalities caused by drowning. The vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

Whereas, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning would be alive today had they worn their life jacket; and

Whereas, to combat these statistics, the National Safe Boating Council, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, will launch the annual North American Safe Boating Campaign during National Safe Boating Week. The Campaign is designed to reach more than 70 million boaters around North America and communicates this year's life-saving message: Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It: and

Now, Therefore, I, James "Jim" Rostek, Mayor of the City of Madeira Beach, Florida do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 18-24, 2024 as National Safe Boating Week and urge all boaters to Boat Smart, Boat Safe, and Wear it. Proclaimed this 8th day of May 2024.

James "Jim" Rostek, Mayor
City of Madeira Beach, Florida