



# Boating Safety Education Grant Program... *Fact Sheet*

One of the ODNR Division of Watercraft's main goals is to reduce boating accidents, mishaps, and fatalities through boater education. Boating safety education grants are available to qualified applicants to establish, develop, expand, and maintain boating safety programs. Grant amounts are based on the potential success of a program toward this goal.

Proposals are considered based on the following priorities and must benefit the general public. Funded programs carry requirements for contact with the news media.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Year-round availability of classroom courses to meet Ohio's mandatory boater education law, at times and locations convenient to boaters.
- Advanced classroom courses and hands-on skill development programs that require or include approved certification.
- Programs designed for students with disabilities, disadvantaged backgrounds, and those with special needs.
- Programs, promotions and campaigns that include the wearing of life jackets.
- Promotions and campaigns for National Safe Boating Week in May ("WEAR IT OHIO!" is the theme) and safe boating messages before and during the busy boating weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.
- Programs that target people using small boats, which are involved in the majority of fatal boating accidents.
- Programs and campaigns that promote a change in attitude about the use of alcohol by boat operators. Alcohol continues to be a causative factor in a large percentage of boating accidents.
- Other inventive, educational and promotional programs will be considered.

## FUNDING AMOUNTS

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$30,000.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

Grant money is appropriated through ODNR Division of Watercraft's Waterways Safety Fund. The Waterways Safety Fund is composed of boat registration fees, a percentage of the state gasoline tax (7/8%), and federal funding from the U.S. Coast Guard. No general revenue funds are used.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Political subdivisions including state, county, city, township, and other local, regional, and state-wide forms of government
- Conservancy districts
- State departments
- State-supported school systems including colleges, universities, and local boards of education
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc
- U.S. Power Squadrons
- Nonprofit organizations proof of current nonprofit status required at time of application: 501(c)3, etc.

## COST SHARE

Grants carry a minimum cost share level of 25% of the total program. For example, a \$1,000 program would comprise \$750 in grant monies and \$250 in cost share matches from the grantee.

Allowable cost share matches include (a) cash funds dedicated to the program by the eligible organizations; (b) donations from outside sources; (c) documented in-kind (personnel & volunteer) services; and (d) donated equipment. A complete list is in the grant packet.

## DOWNLOAD A GRANT PACKET

Visit [ohiodnr.com](http://ohiodnr.com) (see "boating," then "grants").

## FREE WORKSHOP

A free workshop for grant applicants is scheduled for September 1, 2011.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 1, 2011, for programs beginning in 2012.

## QUESTIONS?

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