

ON-WATER COURSES PAGE



“ON-WATER COURSES” INTRODUCTION:

Select the course that meets your needs and experience. These courses are offered by our recognized member schools, clubs, and community programs with waterfront and classroom facilities, powerboats, and certified instructors. Some of our participating providers may offer courses only for smaller open sport powerboats, or only cruising powerboats, while others may offer both. To find locations of participating organizations and their calendar of course offering, go to [Find a Course](#). If your organization would like to become one of our recognized member course providers, contact powerboat@ussailing.net.

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Safe Powerboat Handling Course

US Coast Guard & NASBLA Approved [FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 16-hour *hands-on, on-the-water* course is for anyone who wants to learn how to safely operate a small motorboat and improve their boathandling skills on actual boats. The US Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) have approved this course and an increasing number of states have recognized it as meeting their requirements for a state boating safety education certificate. These national and state approvals call for the course to include a total of six to eight hours of classroom sessions covering required education topics. Students learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Starting procedures
- Docking
- Leave & return to a slip
- Close-quarters maneuvers
- High-speed maneuvers
- Anchoring
- Steering a range
- Proceeding to a destination
- Person-in-Water rescue

Classroom Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather
- Maneuvering concepts
- Registration & capacities
- Equipment requirements
- Prep & fueling procedures
- Navigation rules of the road
- Aids to navigation
- Environment regulations

Prerequisites: none

Suggested Age: 10 – adult (may be affected by state minimum age)

Certification(s) Earned: NASBLA certificate, state boating education certificate (in applicable states), Safe Powerboat Handling certificate

Accelerated Safe Powerboat Handling Course

"Behind the Wheel" & Challenge Test-out [FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 8- to 12-hour *hands-on, on-the-water* course is for anyone who has taken a classroom boating course but needs experience to safely operate a small motorboat and improve their boathandling skills. Students will be expected to self-study the course materials at home to challenge and pass a written exam covering equipment requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigations, preparation, environment regulations, safety and emergencies. This course focuses on hands-on application of all skills, consequently it is **NOT** approved by the US



Coast Guard or the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as meeting requirements for a state boating safety education certificate. Students learn:

On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Starting procedures
- Docking
- Leave & return to a slip
- Close-quarters maneuvers
- High-speed maneuvers
- Anchoring
- Steering a range
- Proceeding to a destination
- Person-in-Water rescue

Classroom Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather briefings
- Maneuvering concepts
- Challenge test-out

Prerequisites: state boating education certificate recommended

Suggested Age: 10 – adult (may be affected by state minimum age)

Certification(s) Earned: Safe Powerboat Handling certificate

Basic Powerboat Cruising Course

US Coast Guard & NASBLA Approved [FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 16-hour *hands-on, on-the-water training* course is for anyone who wants to learn how to safely operate a cruising powerboat and improve their boathandling skills on actual boats. The US Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) have approved this course and an increasing number of states have recognized it as meeting their requirements for a state boating safety education certificate. These national and state approvals call for the course to include a total of six to eight hours of classroom sessions covering required education topics. Students learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Bilge & head systems
- Starting procedures
- Docking
- Leave & return to a slip
- Close-quarters maneuvers
- Open-water maneuvers
- Anchoring
- Plot & track a safe course to a destination
- Determine position with bearings & GPS
- Determine time/speed/distance
- Person-in-Water rescue

Classroom Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather
- Maneuvering concepts
- Registration & capacities
- Equipment requirements
- Prep & fueling procedures
- Navigation rules of the road
- Aids to navigation
- Variation, deviation, compass rose
- Limitations of electronic navigation
- Environment regulations

Prerequisites: none

Age: 18 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: NASBLA certificate, state boating education certificate (in applicable states), Basic Powerboat Cruising certificate

***Accelerated* Basic Powerboat Cruising Course**

"Behind the Wheel" & Challenge Test-out [FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 12- to 14-hour *hands-on, on-the-water* course is for anyone who has taken a classroom boating course but needs experience to safely operate a cruising powerboat and improve their boathandling skills. Students will be expected to self-study the course materials at home to challenge and pass a written exam covering equipment requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigations, preparation, environment regulations, safety and emergencies. This course focuses on hands-on application of all skills, consequently it is **NOT** approved by the US Coast Guard or the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as meeting requirements for a state boating safety education certificate. Students learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Bilge & head systems
- Starting procedures
- Docking
- Leave & return to a slip
- Close-quarters maneuvers
- Open-water maneuvers
- Anchoring
- Plot & track safe course to a destination
- Determine position with bearings & GPS
- Determine time/speed/distance
- Person-in-Water rescue

Classroom Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather briefings
- Maneuvering concepts
- Variation, deviation, compass rose
- Limitations of electronic navigation
- Challenge test-out

Prerequisites: state boating education certificate or USCG operator's license recommended

Age: 18 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Basic Powerboat Cruising certificate

Safety and Rescue Boat Handling Course

[FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 8-hour *hands-on, on-the-water* course is for anyone who will be using powerboats to perform safety and rescue functions. It is designed for regatta personnel, marine patrols, police and fire rescue personnel, park rangers, and on-the-water sailing instructors and coaches. Participants learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- VHF radio communications
- Boat rescues, incl. capsizes
- Person-in-Water rescue
- Towing: astern & alongside
- Williamson turn
- Steering a range in/outbound
- Intercept & maintain position with moving vessel
- Use of bearings & GPS
- Search pattern

Classroom Sessions

- Weather & water briefings
- VHF radio procedures
- Safety & rescue equipment & procedures
- Towing concepts
- Search patterns concepts
- Plotting a position
- Calculating tides & currents

Prerequisites: Safe Powerboat Handling certificate & proficient boathandling skills

Suggested Age: 12 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Safety and Rescue Boat Handling certificate

Safety, Rescue and Race Support Boat Handling Course

[FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 10-to 12-hour *hands-on, on-the-water* course is for anyone who will be operating a race support boat for a race, regatta or event. An operator of a race support boat is expected to be able to perform safety, rescue, and mark-setting operations. This course is the same as the Safety and Rescue Boat Handling Course, except for the addition of a Race Support Boat module. Participants learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- VHF radio communications
- Boat rescues, incl. capsizes
- Person-in-Water rescue
- Towing: astern & alongside
- Williamson turn
- Steering a range in/outbound
- Intercept & maintain position with moving vessel
- Use of bearings & GPS
- Search pattern
- Taking wind readings
- Set & move marks using range/bearing & GPS
- Set a starting line & gate

Classroom Sessions

- Weather & water briefings
- VHF radio procedures
- Safety & rescue equipment & procedures
- Towing concepts
- Search patterns concepts
- Plotting a position
- Calculating tides & currents
- Race support boat equipment & procedures
- Effects of wind & current
- Race course configurations

Prerequisites: Safe Powerboat Handling certificate & proficient boathandling skills

Suggested Age: 12 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Safety and Rescue Boat Handling certificate, Race Support Boat endorsement

Inshore Powerboat Cruising Course

[FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 15⁺-hour *hands-on, on-the-water training* course is for anyone who wants to safely operate and navigate a cruising powerboat on a cruise of multiple days within sight of land. Students learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Use & care of cruising systems: galley, fresh water, holding tanks, genset
- Use of spring lines
- Leave & return to a dock & slip
- Mooring
- Anchoring with two anchors
- Person-in-Water rescue methods
- Maintain DR plot with time/speed/distance calculations
- Determine position electronically & plot it on chart
- Navigate to a GPS waypoint & adjust boat's heading accordingly

Classroom or Onboard Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather
- Menu planning & provisioning
- Cruise planning
- Navigation planning
- Dinghy management
- Rafting techniques
- Use of waypoints, ship's log, tide/current tables, cruising guides, Coast Pilots, Light Lists
- Foreign port documentation & procedures
- IALA A & B buoy systems

Prerequisites: Basic Powerboat Cruising certificate

Age: 18 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Inshore Powerboat Cruising certificate

Inshore Powerboat Cruising & Night Operation Course

[FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

This 18⁺-hour *hands-on, on-the-water training* course is for anyone who wants to safely operate and navigate a cruising powerboat on a cruise of multiple days and at night within sight of land. Students learn:



On-the-Water Sessions

- Engine & electrical systems
- Use & care of cruising systems: galley, fresh water, holding tanks, genset
- Use of spring lines
- Docking **
- Getting in & out of a slip**
- Mooring
- Anchoring with two anchors
- Person-in-Water rescue methods
- Maintain DR plot with time/speed/distance calculations
- Determine position electronically & plot it on chart
- Navigate to a GPS waypoint & adjust boat's heading accordingly
- Leaving & entering a harbor at night
- Lighted aids to navigation
- Navigation lights of vessel traffic
- Navigating at night
- Person-in-Water rescue

Classroom or Onboard Sessions

- Safety, prep & weather
- Menu planning & provisioning
- Cruise planning
- Navigation planning
- Dinghy management
- Rafting techniques
- Use of waypoints, ship's log, tide/current tables, cruising guides, Coast Pilots, Light Lists
- Foreign port documentation & procedures
- IALA A & B buoy systems
- Night operation: safety, prep & briefing
- Night vision effects

Prerequisites: Basic Powerboat Cruising certificate

Age: 18 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Inshore Powerboat Cruising certificate, Night Operation Endorsement

Combination Courses

[FIND THIS COURSE!](#)

These 16- to 20-hour combination courses cover the practical skills and knowledge requirements of the *Accelerated* Safe Powerboat Handling Course and the Safety and Rescue Boat Handling Course OR the Safety, Rescue and Race Support Boat Handling Course. These courses are intended for experienced powerboat operators. Novice operators would not get full value and many would have difficulty successfully completing the combination course.

ACCELERATED SAFE POWERBOAT HANDLING PLUS SAFETY AND RESCUE BOAT HANDLING COURSES

Prerequisites: State boating education certificate recommended, precision boathandling skills

Suggested Age: 12 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Safe Powerboat Handling certificate, Safety and Rescue Boat Handling certificate

ACCELERATED SAFE POWERBOAT HANDLING PLUS SAFETY, RESCUE AND RACE SUPPORT BOAT HANDLING COURSES

Prerequisites: State boating education certificate recommended, precision boathandling skills

Suggested Age: 12 – adult

Certification(s) Earned: Safe Powerboat Handling certificate, Safety and Rescue Boat Handling certificate, Race Support Boat endorsement