

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2016

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Boat Safe, Boat Smart, New Mexico! *Boaters Urged To Get Educated Before Boating Season*



Santa Fe, NM: During the week of April 17-23, New Mexico State Parks and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and their many state, federal and nonprofit partners encourage boaters to **Spring Aboard** by enrolling in a boating education course. The **Spring Aboard** campaign was developed by NASBLA and produced under a grant administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

“We are pleased to participate with the **Spring Aboard** campaign and we are ready to provide the public free, in-person or online boating safety education this spring and summer. We want everyone to get educated and to be safe out on the water,” said Chris Bolen, State Parks’ Boating Safety, Education and Enforcement Program Coordinator.

Who is required to take the course? A person born on or after January 1, 1989 who operates a motorboat (including a sailboat) on the state’s waters shall possess a division-issued boater education card and have it on-board the motorboat during its operation.

Certain participating **Spring Aboard** campaign online course providers are offering discounts or incentives for students who enroll or complete the course this week. A list of four (4) approved online course providers is available at www.nmparks.com.

“Boaters have many ways to get educated, from classroom courses offered by New Mexico State Parks and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to online offerings available anytime. There’s no reason to head out on the water without knowing what you’re doing,” said NASBLA President Col. Darren Rider.

Forty-nine (49) states and U.S. territories require proof of completion of a boating education course for operators of some powered vessels. **Spring Aboard**, for more information about boating education classes, please visit www.nmparks.com.



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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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