

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

David J. Simon
Division Director
**New Mexico State
Parks**



For Immediate Release: Nov. 2, 2009
Contact: Marti Niman, Public Information Officer,
505-827-1474

NEWS RELEASE

Boater Safety Class Offered Nov. 21 in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The last New Mexico Boating Safety Basics class offered in the Albuquerque area this year is scheduled for Nov. 21. All motorboat operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, must complete a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and New Mexico State Parks. Proof of boater education must be carried aboard during boat operation and children 12 years old or under must wear a personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on the deck of a moving vessel.

Classes are free and take about eight hours to complete. Classes give students the chance to interact with an instructor who is an experienced boater and to network with other boaters. Students must score 80 percent or higher on the closed book exam to receive their Boater Education Card, honored in almost every state in the country. It can take up to 45 days to receive your education card in the mail, so plan your classes now.

The boating safety class will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Sandia Meeting Room, NM Environment Department District 1 Office, 5500 San Antonio Dr. N.E. on Nov. 21 and is taught by Stephen Verchinski, boating education coordinator for NM State Parks.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has approved the 8-hour boating safety course. Classes are limited; therefore students are highly encouraged to reserve a spot in advance on line. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact New Mexico State Parks at 505-476-3390.

Upon successful completion of the free New Mexico Boating Basics course, participants will receive certification from NASBLA, and a coupon for two nights of camping for the price of one at any New Mexico State Park. In addition, many insurance companies offer significant discounts on boat insurance, with proper certification.

Boaters are reminded to boat responsibly, be aware of weather conditions, wear their lifejackets and take a safe boating course such as this one. Classes also are available online at New Mexico State Parks' website. For a complete list updated class schedules and boating safety information, visit www.nmparks.com, click on *boating* or call 888-NMPARKS.

Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Get the Card and Wear Your Lifejacket

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

New Mexico State Parks
1220 South St. Francis Drive ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 ▪ Fax (505) 476-3361 ▪ www.nmparks.com

