

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Tommy Mutz, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

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Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: jim.winchester@state.nm.us

Free Boating Safety Education Courses Offered in Northern and Central New Mexico

Santa Fe, NM – *Boat New Mexico* basic safety education courses are being offered in central and northern New Mexico this fall by New Mexico State Parks! Parents with boats and personal watercraft are encouraged to enroll their teens and young adults in the free class. Water levels are up-- making it a perfect time to be out on a boat—but only if you have your boating certification!

WHO: All motorboat personal watercraft and sailboat operators born on or after January 1, 1989, must complete a boating safety course. (This means operators 24 years of age or younger, and even those 13 years and younger being supervised by an adult on board.)

WHAT: Boat New Mexico Basic Safety Education Course.

WHEN and WHERE: Albuquerque Area: Saturday, **October 26**, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the NM Environment Department, 5500 San Antonio Dr. NE, Albuquerque. Farmington Area: Saturday, **November 2**, 2013 and Saturday, **December 7**, 2013, at Navajo Lake State Park Visitor Center, 1448 NM 511 #1, Navajo Dam.

WHY: Boating Safety Education Courses just make sense. The course is FREE and is instructed by state park officers or state park certified volunteer instructors. For more information, call (575) 744-5525.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators has approved this eight-hour boating safety course. The course provides students the opportunity to interact with an experienced boating instructor and to network with other boaters. Students must score 80 percent or higher on the closed book exam to receive their Boater Education Card, which is honored in almost every state in the country.

Passing students will receive their certification 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.

Processing of the actual education cards can take up to 45 days; therefore, plan ahead and sign up early. Proof of boater education must be carried aboard during boating operations. Children 12

years old or under must wear a personal flotation device (lifejacket) approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on the deck of a moving vessel.

State Park officials remind boaters to always wear a lifejacket when out on the water and to be aware of weather conditions.

The New Mexico State Parks Division offers FREE boating safety classes around the state and online throughout the year. For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or 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.

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