

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

April 1, 2013

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### **Free Boating Safety Education Courses Offered at Elephant Butte Lake State Park**

ELEPHANT BUTTE, NM – Boat New Mexico, basic safety education courses will be offered this spring and summer at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, NM. Class sizes are limited and students are highly encouraged to register in advance.

**WHAT:** Boat New Mexico Basic Safety Education Course

**WHEN:** April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

**WHERE:** Richard Cooper Training Center 101 Hwy 195, by Elephant Butte Lake Visitor Center off of Highway 195 near Ridge Road, Elephant Butte Lake State Park.

**WHY:** 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.)

**WHO:** The course is FREE and is instructed by state park officers or state park certified volunteer instructors. For more information, call (575) 744-5998.

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](http://www.nmparks.com).

*Boat Safe, Boat Smart, and Wear Your Lifejacket!*



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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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