

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
National Water Safety Congress
and the
National Boating Federation**

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the National Water Safety Congress and the National Boating Federation, sharing common interests of water and boating safety on a national basis and in particular working together in the interest of providing safe access and safe passage in the areas of primary concern to paddle enthusiasts.

The National Water Safety Congress (hereinafter referred to as "NWSC") and the National Boating Federation (hereinafter known as "NBF").

Whereas the NWSC is a national nonprofit association comprised of agencies, organizations, manufacturers and concerned citizens who are interested in promoting recreational boating and water safety, and individuals representing federal and state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations and private corporations taking responsibility for promoting safe recreational use of our nations waterways and for promoting and furthering the cause of boating and water safety throughout the nation by, co-sponsoring international water and boating safety conferences, administering a nationally recognized awards program, helping to establish the Water Safety Councils; by developing, publishing, and distributing water safety materials; developing and promoting hands on educational tools, and by encouraging the individual states to establish and maintain effective water safety materials.

And whereas the National Boating Federation promotes safe boating through education, acts as a legislative watchdog and advocates for favorable boating legislation, regulations and best management practices.

And whereas the participating parties desire to form a covenant of mutual cooperation and collaboration in support of water safety and safety in recreational boating for the benefit of those users throughout North America, and have an interest in promoting public safety awareness regarding activities on and near public waterways while acknowledging that it is the individuals responsibility to understand and accept the risks associated with such activities.

And whereas, these two organizations are also implementing partners of the United States Coast Guards Recreational Boating Safety Program Strategic Plan who's mission is: to ensure the public has a safe, secure, and enjoyable recreational boating experience by implementing programs designed to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage while cooperating with environmental and national security efforts.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, replacing any other past Memorandum of understanding, and in furtherance of the mutual goals and premises hereof and conditions hereinafter set forth, the parties do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

The NWSC and the NBF will work together to support each organizations respective missions and to explore, and when appropriate, jointly pursue projects mutually determined to be beneficial to the recreational users of our nations waterways. These projects include but are not limited to, initiatives funded and administered by under the U.S. Coast Guard.

The NWSC and the NBF will work together in identifying and developing opportunities to recognize and promote the importance of responsible recreational activities in and around our nations waterways, enhance public appreciation and knowledge regarding safety in and around our nations waterways, strive to maintain communications between each organizations policy makers and staff to promptly address concerns that may arise in water and boating safety issues and to keep the organizations informed of policies, priorities and actions and other development which may include an invitation for each party to send a representative and to attend the other organizations respective governing board meetings, but does preclude the possibility of special (member only) executive sessions.

The Presidents / Chair shall coordinate the participation of their respective organizations on appropriate committees.

Finally in consideration of each organizations willingness to provide complimentary membership benefits to the other party, NWSC and NBF agree to waive any relevant annual membership fees and treat each other as an associate member of the other. Consideration will also be given to permit the waiving of staff and organizational instructors' education certification in an effort to increase opportunity for cross training and numbers of instructors, and to include, educate, and promote each other's hands on education programs.

This memorandum of understanding will become effective upon its signing and will remain in effect unless terminated by written notice of either party. This understanding does not constitute a legal or binding agreement or among the parties or their authorized representatives. This mutual pledge of support does not commit, bind, or obligate either party to participate in any relationship that involves corporate sponsorship and / or a commercial entity, with the exercise of these options left to each organizations respective governing bodies. Either party may request modifications, cancellations, or amendments to this agreement at any time by written notice.

Principal contact for this MOU from the National Water Safety Congress is:

Cecilia Duer
Executive Director
National Water Safety Congress
P.O. Box 1632
Mentor, Ohio 44061
www.watersafetycongress.org
Director@watersafetycongress.org
440.209.9805

Principal Contacts for this MOU from the National Boating Federation is:

National Boating Federation
PO Box 4111
Annapolis, MD 21403-4111
360.297.3505 (fax)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have herewith set their hands and seals as of the day and year written.

The National Water Safety Congress

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Gary Owen, President

DATE: _____

DATE: _____