

# Boating Safety Education Grant Program... *Fact Sheet*

One of ODNR's goals is to reduce boating accidents, mishaps, and fatalities through boater education. Boating safety education grants are available to qualified applicants to establish, develop, expand, and maintain boating safety programs. Grant amounts are based on the potential success of a program toward this goal.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Your application must clearly state how your grant program meets one or more of these requirements:

- NASBLA-approved general boating education courses that meet Ohio's mandatory boater education law, at times and locations convenient to boaters. Funding is only available for training, books, classroom rental and advertising. Minimum of four courses per year.
- Skill development for non-traditional boating groups: Individuals from urban areas, persons from Hispanic cultures/ backgrounds, prisoners of war, veterans, or residents from the Appalachian counties of Ohio. Minimum of four courses per year.
- Boating safety education programs for people with disabilities. Minimum of four courses per year.
- Paddling rescue programs: must teach paddlers higher than a basic level, rescue techniques for river and/or flat water paddling. Topics to be included are proper personal flotation device wear, what to do in emergencies (falls overboard, capsizing) identifying hazards, self-rescues, rescuing other boaters, and managing groups on the water.

Wearing life jackets properly is MANDATORY for all on-the-water programs and activities that are funded by this grant.

## FUNDING AMOUNTS

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$30,000. The limit for all advertising costs is \$1,000 per grant.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

Grant money is appropriated through the Waterways Safety Fund. The Waterways Safety Fund is composed of boat registration fees, a percentage of the state gasoline tax (7/8%), and federal funding from the U.S. Coast Guard. No general revenue funds are used.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Political subdivisions including state, county, city, township, and other local, regional, and state-wide forms of government
- Conservancy districts
- State departments
- State-supported school systems including colleges, universities, and local boards of education
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Association
- U.S. Power Squadrons
- Nonprofit organizations proof of current nonprofit status required at time of application: 501(c)3, etc.

## COST SHARE

Grants carry a minimum cost share level of 25% of the total program. For example, a \$1,000 program would comprise \$750 in grant monies and \$250 in cost share matches from the grantee.

Allowable cost share matches include

- (a) cash funds dedicated to the program by the eligible organizations;
- (b) donations from outside sources;
- (c) documented in-kind (personnel & volunteer) services;
- (d) donated equipment.

A complete list is found in the grant packet.

## FREE WORKSHOP

A free workshop for grant applicants is scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2016.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

November 1, 2016, for programs beginning in 2017.

## QUESTIONS?

Craig Watson, (614) 265-6674  
craig.watson@dnr.state.oh.us



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

[watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/grants](http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/grants)

