

Nonprofit Organization Grants:

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Recreational Boating Safety

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| Federal Grant Title: | National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program |
| Federal Agency: | United States Coast Guard |
| Funding Opportunity Number: | DHS-USCG-2015-001 |
| Type of Funding: | Cooperative Agreement |
| CFDA Numbers: | 97.012 |
| CFDA Descriptions: | Boating Safety Financial Assistance |

Grantee: Spirit of America

Grant Number: 3315FAN150224

Grant Title: America's Premiere Youth Boating Education Programs

Award Amount: \$175,000.00

Synopsis:

The Spirit of America foundation programs introduce young people to several different types and sizes of watercraft, spanning all disciplines, and water-based activities, all which nurture responsible behavior. The grant funding is used to provide objective based curriculum education from the classroom (state approved course) to the pool / or water environment, to train in drowning prevention and equipment awareness, and through all three disciplines of watercraft, training, on-water boat handling instruction for recreational powered watercraft operators and in addition sailing, personal watercraft, and human powered / paddle instruction disciplines.



24 Oct 2016

Spirit of America Foundation Final Report for Grant 3315FAN150224

The FY'15 grant provided by the United States Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund program has assisted, in part, in allowing us to continue to provide Spirit of America program components on the national level, in keeping with our Spirit of America Foundation mission.

Spirit of America: America's Premier Youth Boating Education Programs

The Spirit of America Foundation, a not-for-profit 501C3 public service organization providing education on the national level, with over 17 locations around the country and 23 with additional Spirit of America community education program curriculum, exists to primarily serve our youth with America's Premier Youth Boating Safety Education Program. Our country's young people, their families and their communities are provided a sustainable resource of education, recreation and business, for all generations to participate in. We provide life-long enjoyment possibilities of boating and water-based recreational activities in a healthy and safe environment. Spirit of America empowers our youth to dare to dream, while meeting the underlying goals of our curriculum for developing self-esteem, teamwork, safe seamanship, boating and water safety practices, and responsible behavior in our young adults. Our curriculum is directly tied to national and local education standards, national physical education standards, next generation science standards and includes the mission and components of STEM (Science technology Engineering and Math), and includes the national knowledge based and national on water skills based standards, 2/3 of which are ANSI approved. We are growing a new, and future, generation of SAFE-SMART boaters!

Spirit of America Foundation programs are highly regarded educational programs providing mandatory curriculum in State Boating Education Courses, a drowning prevention, water safety and swimming competency and equipment awareness program, and all three on water disciplines in sail, human powered, and power. In addition, the students are also educated in basic personal watercraft maintenance and operation and large vessel education. This large vessel education component also serves to assist the children in making future career choices.

An integral component of this organization and its programs is to meet the guidelines of the current United States Coast Guard office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety's National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan, including but not limited to, public awareness and outreach of safe boating practices, on water, skills-based education, and increased life jacket awareness as key components.

As the Spirit of America program started the 22nd season on the water in 2016, providing its Premier Youth Boating and Water Safety Education Programs in over 17 locations, we looked back at our 23

years of successes and embraced the challenges of the new year which provided growth to our organization. With over 12,000 young adults having graduated from our programs, and more each year, we are providing the future with a new generation of SAFE-SMART boaters. Spirit of America Foundation will continue to provide a unique, SAFE and educational introduction, to our country's young people, their families and communities, to all types of water-based recreational activities in the most unique, rare and diverse "hands-on" classroom in America.

Spirit of America Foundation is dedicated and committed to continuing their leadership role in advancing the promotion of America's Premier Education Programs and the safety of all recreational boating activities for all participants throughout the United States, providing education and appropriate accessibility that is for everyone, all ages, and allowing our middle school aged children the primary use of the program at little to no cost, in an effort to continue to grow a viable, sustainable safety culture for all future generations.

The Spirit of America foundation programs introduce young people to several different types and sizes of watercraft, spanning all disciplines, and water-based activities, all which nurture responsible behavior. We provide an ideal environment for students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions. An all hands-on program, Spirit of America empowers our youth, in a nontraditional classroom setting, teaching appropriate boating and water safety practices, physical health and well-being, a promise of a productive and successful future, and responsible behavior in our young adults.

The Goal: As requested by the United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Spirit of America respectfully requested, and was awarded, a grant to assist in part in, specifically, the process of further development and distribution of the Spirit of America programs by providing our personally produced objective based curriculum education from the classroom (state approved course) to the pool / or water environment, to train in drowning prevention and equipment awareness, and through all three disciplines of watercraft, training, on-water boat handling instruction for recreational powered watercraft operators and in addition sailing, personal watercraft, and human powered / paddle instruction disciplines. Spirit of America provided, through a grant from the United States Coast Guard an increase in our training capabilities for Coordinators, general capabilities and some of the tools necessary to conduct on-water boat handling instruction for our young recreational boat operators, their families and their communities, of powered watercraft, sail and paddle (human powered) vessels through such means as an increase in physical resources, marketing, specific outreach efforts, and (in particular) enhanced instructor development and capability to increase the capacity to deliver available on water education programs. We are proud of the three new locations we were able to open in Tennessee and Virginia opened in 2015.

We are grateful for the opportunity provided by the United States Coast Guard which funds, in part, programs of the Spirit of America foundation throughout our country. This funding assists us in our overall mission to perpetuate the programs of Spirit of America in present locations and continue to open new programs and/or resource share with in the areas of programs currently in operation.

New Program Mission and Accomplishments

Spirit of America is 'America's Premier Youth, Family and Community Boating Education Program' which affords resources on a national level, of traditional and nontraditional education, in a way for our students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions, and empower our youth to advance their confidence, self-esteem, teamwork and safe boating practices while nurturing responsible behavior. Spirit of America continues to provide a unique, safe, and educational introduction to all types of boating and water-based activities. We demonstrate that the likelihood of advancing community opportunity where programs exist is extremely high, spurring other beneficial actions, and being the

ultimate force multiplier, while we continue to provide a resource for American communities and for the future of our marine industry. 'Future Boaters-Future Business' ©

Establishment of program 'Spirited Outreach; Boating it Forward'©

Spirit of America Foundation, with over 22 years providing national and community based educational programs, announces a new and exciting youth outreach program to benefit persons in communities where our graduates are located. Unique to any other program in the United States, young persons will present educational components of boating and water safety education in their own communities.

The Spirited Outreach, Boating It Forward project was initiated on August 1, 2016.

The Boating It Forward Mission: Utilizing the graduates of the nationally recognized Spirit of America Foundation youth boating education programs, our young persons will reach out to their Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) to introduce entire communities to the importance of boating and water safety education, ultimately assisting in saving lives on, in, and near the water. The Boating It Forward vision includes allowing all of our young graduates, having been educated within a non-traditional 'classroom', the marine environment, to present community education opportunities improving the well-being, of their home communities across America. Our graduates will "pay it forward", creating future generations of 'SAFE-SMART' boaters. The goal of the program being to deliver basic boating and water safety instruction to Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) focusing on the following components:

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| Life Jackets | Carriage Requirements | Overloading Swamping and Capsizing |
| Education and Age/Vessel Restrictions | | Rules of the Road |
| Aids to Navigation | Float Plans | Cold Water Immersion Prevention |

Presentations may be made in places such as school, scouting programs, community retail establishments as a 'Point of Sale' educational tool, sport team meetings, and family and other social gatherings.

Establishment of 'Seaworthy Project'© Program:

Using the marine environment to improve the academic opportunities and provide for the well-being, independence, and life sustaining vocations of persons with disabilities. Seaworthy will create a non-traditional model of hands on curriculum, providing standardized educational components, in an inclusive and social environment. Operating during the school year students will participate in a curriculum which permits all students to grow, becoming emotionally and physically, confident, competent and independent. Students will receive a 'Certificate of Proficient Successful Completion or Participation of Milestones', through age and ability appropriate curriculum. The Seaworthy Project was initiated on October 1, 2016 at Shake A Leg Miami and will include 180 young adults in the inaugural program through the end of the school year 2017.

Establishment of Brendan Sailing Partnership

The Spirit of America Foundation (Spirit) and the Brendan Corporation (Brendan), with a combined 53 years' experience educating young persons on the water, have announced a new formal partnership. The two organizations, sharing similar missions of building confidence and personal growth in a healthy and social recreational boating environment, provide and enable students through a unique opportunity to participate in a range of the Spirit's boating education modules to enhance their Brendan experience. The opportunity includes learning basic boating safety operations on board recreational vessels covering all disciplines, which serve youth with intellectual or physical challenges, and synergistically aligns with the

programs learning approach, allowing Brendan students to expand their boating education experiences to a variety of watercraft.

The mission includes using the marine environment to improve the well-being, independence, and life sustaining opportunities of persons with disabilities, on a national level. The vision includes making available non-traditional, hands on curriculum which includes National on-water and knowledge based standards of education, providing these standardized educational components in a healthy, social environment and a 'Certificate of Proficient Successful Completion' of each milestones, through age and ability appropriate curriculum in a timeline considerate of each students needs. The curriculum includes valuable educational experiences, which permits all students to grow, becoming emotionally and physically, confident, competent young mariners. The Spirit of America Foundation proudly partners with the Brendan Corporation in an effort to provide a Brendan program in all of its locations.

2015 – 2016 Locations (with more than one program in the states):

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| Ohio | North Carolina | South Carolina |
| Florida | Hawaii | Maryland |
| Tennessee | Virginia | Washington DC |

Please contact our office directly for accurate and updated information or visit us at <http://www.SpiritofAmerica95.org>, or on Facebook or Twitter.

“No Child Left at the Dock”©

“Future Boaters ... Future Business”©