



National Safe Boating Council

"Safer Boating Through Education, Outreach and Training"

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Executive Director

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31 January 2013

Mike Baron
U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, D. C. 20593-0001

Dear Mr. Baron:

For the year 2012 the United States Coast Guard granted the National Safe Boating Council \$220,000.00 for the Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Training for Organizations to Reach the Public Grant, Agreement No. 1102.21. This letter, together with the enclosed reports, forms and budget, is our official final report.

Sincerely,

Virgil H. Chambers
Executive Director
National Safe Boating Council

Enclosures: Final Report, Standard Forms 272 and 425, 2012 Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Training for Organizations to Reach the Public Budget, Essentials for Close-Quarters Boat Control Student/Training Manual and Close-Quarters Boat Control Binder

National Safe Boating Council
Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Training for Organizations
to Reach the Public Grant FY 2012
Grant 1102.21

Abstract

The goal of this grant project was to train instructors who deal directly with the general public to provide a basic hands-on skill training course for powerboat operators using boats under 26-feet. The instructor curriculum utilized for the training was the National Safe Boating Council's (NSBC) "*The Essentials of Close-quarters Boat Control Course.*" Our instructor students were from a variety of organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, boating clubs, private boating companies, diving clubs, Power Squadrons, Auxiliaries, state agency volunteers, fire departments, Harbormaster's Associations and university programs. The goal was to conduct 6 instructor training courses (2 Southern, 2 Northern and 2 Western Regions of NASBLA) and train 96 people to be instructors through this curriculum. These newly certified instructors would immediately start training others in the curriculum and would initiate the force multiplier effect of increasing the number of trained powerboat operators that will ultimately reduce boating accidents and fatalities.

The National Safe Boating Council, working with its team of Master Instructor-Trainers and its membership organizations to host the courses to keep costs down, was able to meet and exceed by doubling the number of instructors courses that was required in the original grant and exceed the number of instructors trained. A total of 12 instructor courses were conducted (3 Northern, 3 Western and 6 Southern in the Regions of NASBLA). A total of 173 students received the instructor training. One student became certified in the "*Basic Essentials of Close-Quarters*" and 10 previously certified instructors received their Instructor-Trainer certifications. This year the NSBC certified instructors have trained over 500 students in the "*Basic Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Course.*"

Through this grant, the National Safe Boating Council in partnership with its membership organizations, boating education and law enforcement leaders, were able to train instructors and instructor-trainers in a national hands-on training program to be used by the greater boating community. This project supports Objective 3, Strategies 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 by increasing the number of people who have completed on-water skill-based boating education.

National Safe Boating Council
Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Training for Organizations to
Reach the Public Grant FY 2012
Grant 1102.21

Executive Summary

The goal of this grant project was to train instructors who deal directly with the general public to provide a basic hands-on skill training course for powerboat operators using boats under 26-feet. The instructor curriculum utilized for the training was the National Safe Boating Council's (NSBC) "*The Essentials of Close-quarters Boat Control Course*." Our instructor students were from a variety of organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, boating clubs, private boating companies, diving clubs, Power Squadrons, Auxiliaries, state agency volunteers, fire departments, Harbormaster's Associations and university programs. The goal was to conduct 6 instructor training courses (2 Southern, 2 Northern and 2 Western Regions of NASBLA). The courses were popular with the local boating instructors and their costs to attend were minimal. Thus, we were able to double the number of courses to 12 courses and trained 173 instructors and 10 became instructor-trainers. In return, these instructors and last year's instructors trained over 500 students in 2012 to make better power boaters and reduce accidents and fatalities. This project supports Objective 3, Strategies 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 by increasing the number of people who have completed on-water skill-based boating education.

Project Details

The NSBC recruited organizations from its "*Membership Directory*" to be host agencies. One course was to be held in conjunction with the "*International Boating & Water Safety Summit*" in San Diego, California in March. Forever Resorts agreed to host a course in April. Then, the state agencies came on board to host courses in Texas, Connecticut, Ohio, and Tennessee. Eckerd College became interested and we offered a class for their staff. It soon became apparent that costs were minimal for travel and we were going to be able to double the number of courses. Thus, we were able to add Alabama, Maryland, Arizona and a return to Eckerd College and Connecticut. As the year progressed and more people took the training, the courses became more popular and we were hitting the maximum amount of students per course.

The NSBC has been relying on host agencies to provide the boats and perform the logistical work of making first contact with hotels, locating restaurants or caterers for lunches, classrooms, restrooms, launch and marina facilities, etc. We have found that it is easier working with the state agencies with all of their contacts and additional resources available to put on these on-water power boating programs.

Marketing Plan

For advertising and marketing, the NSBC did 2 Press Releases about the courses (one at the beginning of the year and one half-way through the year). We advertised through our web site and various email blasts and communications. Plus, the host and local agencies utilized the “*Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Course*” promotional brochure at various events and programs.

The most effective marketing was through the local agencies and word of mouth through the national organizations. Once an agency instructor went through the program, they would go back and promote the course to all of their other agency trainers. The positive feedback is the best marketing promotion.

Conduct the Instructor Training Courses

The National Safe Boating Council, working with its team of master instructor-trainers, conducted 12 instructor training courses (3 Northern, 3 Western and 6 Southern in the Regions of NASBLA). Each instructor candidate received step-by-step skill training in close-quarter boat control skills. The instructor candidates were evaluated by their knowledge of the curriculum, on their performance of the skills, their modeling of the skills and how well they could communicate and teach these skills to each other on the boat. Included in the training curriculum are general safe boating practices that the instructors must demonstrate and perform such as the pre-departure checklist, safety briefings, proper look-out, their adherence to the Steering and Sailing Rules.

The “*Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Courses*” were held at the following locations on the dates below.

1. March 1 & 2, 2012 at Mission Bay in San Diego, California. This course was held with the “*International Boating & Water Safety Summit*” and the United States Army Corps of Engineers provided 2 boats for the training. 6 students were trained to be instructors.
2. April 10 & 11, 2012 at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. The course was for the 5 employees of their college. All 5 employees were trained to be instructors.
3. April 17 & 18, 2012 at Lake Mead in Callville, Nevada. Forever Resorts hosted the training and provided 2 boats. 7 students were trained to be instructors.
4. May 9 & 10, 2012 at Lake Austin in Austin, Texas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hosted the course and coordinated the supply of 6 boats. 23 students were trained to be instructors.
5. June 12 & 13, 2012 at the Connecticut River in Old Lyme, Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hosted the training

- and provided 5 boats. 16 students were trained to be instructors plus 3 previously certified instructors became certified as instructor-trainers.
6. June 27 & 28, 2012 at Alum Creek Reservoir in Delaware, Ohio. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Watercraft hosted the course and provided 4 boats. 11 students were trained to be instructors, one student received the basic training (did not qualify to be an instructor – an intern for Ohio Watercraft) and one previously certified instructor became certified as an instructor-trainer.
 7. August 22 & 23, 2012 at Percy Priest Lake in Nashville, Tennessee. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency hosted the course and coordinated the supply of 7 boats. 26 students were trained to be instructors and 3 previously certified instructors became certified as instructor-trainers.
 8. September 13 & 14, 2012 at Perdido Pass in Orange Beach, Alabama. The Alabama Marine Police Division hosted the course and provided 3 boats. 9 students were trained to be instructors and 2 previously certified instructors became certified instructor-trainers.
 9. September 29 & 30, 2012 at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Eckerd College hosted the course and provided 3 boats. 12 students were trained to be instructors.
 10. October 2 & 3, 2012 at the Connecticut River in Old Lyme, Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hosted the course and provided 5 boats. 20 students were trained to be instructors.
 11. October 20 & 21, 2012 on the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, Maryland. The Annapolis Community Boating Program, Annapolis Sailing School and Annapolis Powerboating School hosted the training. However, they needed the assistance of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (3 boats), Boat US Foundation (1 boat) and rented 1 boats at the end from our master instructor-trainer in the Maryland area. 16 students were trained to be instructors (several others were unable to participate due to emergencies) and one previously certified instructor became certified as an instructor-trainer.
 12. October 23 & 24, 2012 at Pleasant Lake in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona Game and Fish Department hosted the course and coordinated the supply of 6 boats. 22 students were trained to be instructors.

A total of 173 students received the instructor training. One student became certified in the “*Basic Essentials of Close-Quarters*” and 10 previously certified instructors received their Instructor–Trainer certifications. The greatest accomplishment is that these instructors will go back and train at least 4 boaters and it becomes the force multiplier effect. This year the NSBC certified instructors have trained over 500 students in the “*Basic Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Course.*”

Evaluation

All students completed an evaluation of the program and the master instructor-trainers. All evaluations were positive and said that the “*The Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Instructor Course*” is an effective on-the-water program to efficiently teach other boaters. The training is step-by-step and builds on each skill to develop competent boat operation in close or tight quarters. It also provides an assessment tool that the instructors can use as they teach other boaters.

Summary

The National Safe Boating Council, working with its team of Master Instructor-Trainers and its membership organizations to host the courses to keep costs down, was able to meet and exceed by doubling the number of instructors courses that was required in the original grant. Our goal was to train 96 instructors and we were also able to exceed that number. Overall, a total of 173 students received the instructor training. One student became certified in the “*Basic Essentials of Close-Quarters*” and 10 previously certified instructors received their Instructor–Trainer certifications.

The greatest objective is that these newly trained instructors are immediately going back to their organizations/agencies and implementing this training. It is building the foundation for the force multiplier effect. Just think how many students will be trained in 2013 from these organizations that participated in the courses - the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, boating clubs, private boating companies, diving clubs, Power Squadrons, Auxiliaries, state agency volunteers, fire departments, Harbormaster’s Associations and university programs.

Read below what participants are saying about the program.

“The course is everything I heard! A confidence builder and a way to effectively teach other boaters to do the same.”

“ . . . we sent 2 people to the training. Both found the training valuable and will immediately implement the training into our program.”