

Nonprofit Organization Grants:

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Recreational Boating Safety

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: American Canoe Association (ACA)

Grant Number: 3315FAN150202

Grant Title: Sustainable Paddlesport Education for Underserved Communities

Award Amount: \$200,000.00

Synopsis:

The goal of the Sustainable Paddlesport Education for Underserved Communities grant project is to realize a five-year average in reduction of paddle sport related fatalities through direct outreach to a diverse demographic. This will be accomplished by providing on-land and on-water education and skills assessment credentialing for both adults and youth of underrepresented populations in twenty different locations, with ten being in an urban environment and ten being in a rural setting.



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October 5, 2016

Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
United States Coast Guard STOP 7501
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20593-7501

Final Report
USCG Grant 3315FAN1502.02
Sustainable Paddlesports Education for Underserved Communities
August 2015 – September 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

The American Canoe Association (ACA) has continued completing the following activities and efforts for Grant 3315FAN1502.02, a project titled *Sustainable Paddlesports Education for Underserved Communities*. The ACA has completed the tasks outlined below in the Final Report from August 2015 through September 30, 2016.

The goal of this project will be to provide on-land and on-water skills awareness for both adults and youth of underrepresented populations in eighteen (18) different locations, with nine (9) being in an urban environment and nine (9) being in a rural setting. Each location will have the opportunity to complete one (1) Skills Course and one (1) Skills Assessment in one of the following disciplines: Stand Up Paddleboarding, Kayaking, or Canoeing. Each location will also have an opportunity to gain further understanding on other paddlecraft types and operations of these vessels, through this project.

As more individuals in the community obtain knowledge of paddlesports education, the force multiplier will begin as they start to help others in their community organizations to better understand safe boating laws and practices in Human-powered watercrafts. This in turn will also minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats, through preventative means, in order to maximize safe use and enjoyment of U.S. waterways by the public.

The ACA has:

- Completed all of the paperwork associated with negotiating the revised budget with the U.S. Coast Guard
- Acquired the staff resources needed to conduct this project
- Continue efforts to set up programming in the eighteen (18) different locations, as specified by the grant
- Focused efforts on the creation of a Youth Paddlesports Booklet titled *Kid's Go Paddling* with the underlying premise of a solid foundational understanding of the 'Be a **L.I.F.E.R.**' acronym. This principle looks at **L**ifejacket Wear, **I**mmersion, **F**ollowing the Rules of the Road, **E**valuation of the paddling Venue, and **R**eturning Safely. We have partnered with Anzovin to create this youth booklet to better provide youth-appropriate educational resources, as outlined by the grant stipulations. Upon the completion of this booklet, each youth involved with this program will be able to have a copy of the booklet, in accordance with the grant stipulations for the Youth Educational Packets.
 - Below is one of the concept images for 'Blueberry', the female counterpart to the other animated character used in programs developed through Anzovin for the ACA and USCG animated projects.
 - The ACA was awarded 1st Place for 'Booklet/Brochures' Media for this project at the 2016 International Boating and Water Safety Summit.



At the close of the grant project, we had some additional financial resources. We printed and distributed another round of the *Kid's Go Paddling* Booklets to the community organizations and site hosts at each location. In addition to these booklets, we printed and distributed SUP and Kayak Safety Placards that had previously been created by the ACA through another USCG Grant Project.

These placards, and the information therein, can be seen below:

Stand Up Paddleboarding



Individual Responsibilities

Be a competent swimmer	Use the wind to your advantage
Wear a lifejacket with whistle	Know how to self-rescue
Know when to wear a leash	Know how to tow another board
Protect your feet	File a float plan
Understand the hazards of different venues: tidal, surf, moving & whitewater	Know local regulations
Match your abilities to the venue	Paddle with Aloha

**Obtain the Knowledge
Take a Class!**




Share the Waterways

Practice Defensive SUP
For the SUP, defensive paddling is preventing collisions and mishaps in spite of the actions of others and the conditions around you. Defensive SUP is simply avoiding others and where they should travel. Scan the waterway and determine where other boats, paddlers, surfers, and SUPs are, and travel accordingly.

Wind
Paddle into the wind at the start of your trip. Or, paddle a 'downwinder' from point A to B and have a vehicle waiting at the take-out for shuttle.

Tidal Waters
Understand the local tide conditions before starting your trip.

Surf Zone
Learn appropriate etiquette for this venue. Wear a leash. Know and abide by Federal and State carriage requirements for a vessel outside of the surf zone.

Whitewater Rivers
Additional paddling skills and equipment are needed to SUP in whitewater. Helmets, elbow pads, knee pads, shin guards, and specialized leashes.

Proper Blade Angle
For the most efficient stroke, the 'bend' in the blade should be forward with the blade tip pointing towards the nose. For a blade with a slight 'curve' instead of an angular 'bend', the outside of the curve should be towards the nose.

Know and follow the Navigation Rules
For a complete listing of the navigation rules, refer to the document "Navigation Rules of the Road" published by the U.S. Coast Guard (COMDTINST 16672.2 Series) and available on the web at www.narvices.uscg.gov. For State specific navigation requirements, refer to the state laws where you intend to paddle.

Take a Course
Learn essential information and practice paddling and rescue skills by taking an on-water class from an ACA certified SUP instructor.
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www.sup-aca.org

RECREATIONAL KAYAKING SAFETY ESSENTIALS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Wear a lifejacket
- Be a competent swimmer
- Take a class / obtain the knowledge
- Boating alone is discouraged
- Know how to self-rescue
- File a float-plan
- Have the proper equipment
- Match your abilities to the venue
- Practice Leave No Trace outdoor ethics
- Paddle Safe, Paddle Smart and Know Your Limits



**BOAT SMART FROM THE START
WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET!**




SHARE THE WATERWAYS

PRACTICE DEFENSIVE BOATING
For the kayaker, defensive boating is preventing collisions and mishaps in spite of actions of others and the conditions around you. Defensive boating is simply avoiding other boaters and where they should travel. In addition, travelling outside the main channel and closer to shore is often more scenic.

SEE AND BE SEEN
Wear bright colored apparel and lifejackets. Use reflective tape and a white light in reduced visibility. Carry and use a fog horn or whistle. In fog situations, sound the signal to indicate your location every two minutes. Travel in groups

SELECT A ROUTE THAT AVOIDS OTHER BOATS
Anticipate where larger boats will travel and avoid these places. Travel outside of the channel or close to shore when the channel extends from bank to bank. Avoid cutting corners that require crossing channels and when crossing a channel, go straight across or at a right angle to the channel.

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER BOATS
Scan the waterway and determine where other boats are. Avoid those places.

RED - RIGHT - RETURNING
Navigation Channels are marked with red (triangular shaped) and green (square shaped) markers. When returning to the port or harbor, the red marker is found on the right of the channel. These markers indicate the main channel used by larger boats.

KNOW AND FOLLOW THE NAVIGATION RULES
For a complete listing of the navigation rules, refer to the document "Navigation Rules of the Road" published by the U.S. Coast Guard (COMDTINST 16672.2 Series) and available on the web at www.narvices.uscg.gov. For State specific navigation requirements, refer to the state laws where you intend to boat.



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These above items will help with further education and outreach opportunities in each of the specified areas as selected through this grant program.

- Completed the establishment and implementation of each program in the eighteen (18) different locations, as specified by the grant:
 - March 10, 16 & May 10, 2016 – Galveston, Texas
 - Sea Scout Base Galveston,
 - Odyssey School
 - March, 18-19, 2016 – Anchorage, Alaska
 - Alaska Boating and Safety
 - Turnagain Kayaks
 - Greater Alaska Boy Scouts, Anchorage Chapters
 - April 2-3, 2016 – Corpus Christi, Texas
 - Rockport Kayaks
 - Youth Council Programs
 - April 30-May 1, 2016 – Miami, Florida
 - Spirit of Adventure Kayaks
 - Florida Wildlife Commission and the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp (EYCC)
 - May 14-15, 2016 – Juneau, Alaska
 - Turnagain Kayaks
 - Above & Beyond Alaska/Alaska Boat and Kayak Center
 - May 14-15, 2016 – San Diego, California
 - REI Outdoor Programs Manager San Diego
 - Outdoor Outreach
 - May 18, 19, 20, & 27, 2016 – Charleston, South Carolina
 - Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission
 - James Island Middle School
 - May 28-29, 2016 – San Francisco, California
 - REI Outdoor Programs & Outreach Market Manager San Francisco Bay Area
 - Sunrise Middle School
 - June 4-5, 2016 – Seattle, Washington
 - REI Outdoor School Senior Instructor
 - Tahoma Middle School
 - June 11-12, 2016 – Bellingham, Washington
 - Community Boating Center
 - June 13-14, 2016 – Lansing, Michigan
 - Camp Highfields
 - June 15-16, 2016 – Fort Myers, Florida
 - College of Life Foundation
 - New Horizons

- June 16-17, 2016 – Muskegon, Michigan
 - Muskegon YMCA, Youth Aquatics Program
- June 29 & August, 9 – New York City, New York
 - Brooklyn Kayak Guides,
 - The Conservancy
 - North Brooklyn Boat House
 - Good Shepherd School
- July 10-11, 2016 – Columbia, South Carolina
 - City of Rock Hill, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
 - Catawba Nation
- July 12-15, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee
 - Nashville Metro Parks
- July 28-29, 2016 – Tampa, Florida
 - Sweetwater Kayaks
 - Tampa Police Athletic League
 - City of St. Pete Parks and Recreation
- September 3-4, 2016 – Chicago, Illinois
 - REI Outdoor Programs & Outreach Chicago
 - Outdoor & Environmental Education for the Chicago Park District
 - Outdoor Afro

The ACA actively obtained partners for this grant project throughout the eighteen (18) different locations agreed upon by the parameters of the grant. Through the existing ACA instructors in the specified areas of interest, we were able to make necessary contacts to ensure the success of the grant.

Below is a chart of the courses completed, with information pertaining to course location, course completion date, the number of participants participating in the skills courses and the assessment courses, as well as the number of adults that have passed the assessment portion of this program.

Course Location	Course Completion Date	Participants: Skills Course	Participants: Assessment Course	Adult Participants Passed Assessment
Galveston, TX	March 10, 16 & May, 10, 2016	20 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
Anchorage, AK	March 18-19, 2016	15 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
Corpus Christi, TX	April 2-3, 2016	15 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
Miami, FL	April 30-May 1, 2016	23 Youth, 7 Adults	Seven (7)	Seven (7)
Juneau, AK	May 14-15, 2016	16 Youth, 3 Adults	Three (3)	Three (3)
San Diego, CA	May 14-15, 2016	15 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
Charleston, SC	May 18,19,20, & 27, 2016	35 Youth, 6 Adults	Six (6)	Zero (0)
San Francisco, CA	May 28-29, 2016	15 Youth, 3 Adults	Three (3)	Three (3)
Seattle, WA	June 4-5, 2016	18 Youth, 3 Adults	Three (3)	Zero (0)
Bellingham, WA	June 11-12, 2016	9 Youth, 6 Adults	Six (6)	Six (6)
Lansing, MI	June 13-14, 2016	6 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
Fort Myers, FL	June 15-16, 2016	34 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Zero (0)
Muskegon, MI	June 16-17, 2016	11 Youth, 4 Adults	Four (4)	Four (4)
New York City, NY	June 29 & August 9, 2016	14 Youth, 3 Adults	Seven (7)	Five (5)
Nashville, TN	July 29 & August 2, 2016	6 Youth, 3 Adults	Three (3)	Three (3)
Tampa, FL	July 28-29, 2016	20 Youth, 3 Adults	Three (3)	Zero (0)
Columbia, SC	August 11-12, 2016	13 Youth, 6 Adults	Six (6)	One (1)
Chicago, IL	September 3-4, 2016	7 Youth, 5 Adults	Three (3)	Zero (0)
Totals		292 Youth, 76 Adults	78 Adults	52 Adults

After eighteen (18) completed courses, we have had 292 youth participants focusing on skill development, 76 adults continuing working on skills development, and 78 adults take part in the skills assessment. Of those 78 adults, 52 of the adults passed the skills assessment at Level 1 in various disciplines.

Additional pertinent information:

One of the greatest challenges of this program was the perceived danger of the activity by the participants, or more correctly, by the participants' parents and grandparents. Since we worked with individuals from underserved communities, most of these individuals, and their families, did not participate in water sports activities. Most of the youth, and even most of the adults that took this skills or assessment course, did not know how to swim. Even though every person always wore a properly fitted PFD (lifejacket), to get someone who is afraid of the water to feel comfortable in the water and trust the equipment, and the instructor, in a limited amount of time is a challenge. Then to expect the person to learn how to properly and efficiently navigate a paddlesport is another challenge. In most situations and circumstances, we were able to overcome these hurdles.

One of the main reasons why the grant did not meet the numbers previously specified is because of this 'fear' of water and parents unwillingness to allow their children to participate. The morning of most of the programs, I received a phone call from the community organization that some of the children participants would not be coming due to a myriad of reasons, but it all circled back to the parents did not feel comfortable having them participate in a watersports activity.

This is more of a systemic issue. If we can change the mindset and understanding for the parents of the youth, then more youth participation will be had in the future. The best way for this to occur is to keep offering similar programs and start with a grassroots effort in each location just to help the community members to understand more about lifejacket wear. Once they understand that they can be safe in the water, then we can add in the skills and other aspects necessary for the community members to learn paddlesports proficiency.

Financial Update:

As of September 29, 2016, **\$200,000** has been directly charged to the \$200,000 in approved grant funds.

We have allocated all financial resources as of September 30, 2016 and have completed the grant program as specified. Through this program, we have been able to create a sizable impact on the underserved community groups in the specified areas of interest.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the ACA National Office. Thank you for your continued assistance throughout this important grant project.

Respectfully,

/T.J. Turner/
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