

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-2016-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: Spirit of America

Grant Number: 3316FAN160222

Grant Title: Youth, Family, and Community Boating & Water Safety Program

Award Amount: \$175,000.00

Synopsis:

The goal of the Premiere Youth Boating Education program is to deliver boating education, classroom and on water skills-based, to the country's young people. Specific activities in support of this goal include curriculum development, outreach, instructor training, and equipment support.



Spirit of America Foundation Final Report FY '16-17 Grant

Narratives: (acceptable for public presentation)

The FY '16-17 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), STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), and includes the National On-water Skills-based Standards which are now ANSI approved, and National Knowledge-based Standards. 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, swimming competency and equipment awareness program, and all three on-water disciplines in sail, human powered, and power curriculum. In addition, the students are also educated in basic personal watercraft maintenance and operation and large vessel education. This large vessel education component, including newest technologies, 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 initiatives, including but not limited to, public awareness and outreach of on water safe boating practices, on water, skills-based education, and increased life jacket awareness as key components.

As the Spirit of America program started the 23rd season on the water in 2017, 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 13,000 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 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 educational curriculum from the classroom (state approved courses) 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 and, in addition, sailing, personal watercraft, and human powered / paddle instruction disciplines. Spirit of America provided, with the assistance of 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 new locations we were able to open in Tennessee as a result of resource sharing and new equipment we are able to provide.

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 over all mission to perpetuate the programs of Spirit of America in present locations and continue to open new programs and/or in more and more cases, resource share 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. 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 23 years providing national and community based educational programs, announced 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 graduates 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 community education opportunities for improving the well-being, of graduates' home communities across America. The goal of the program being to deliver basic boating and water safety instruction focusing on the following components:

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. The program is growing interest after a late start (after SOA programs) in 2016.

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 54 years' experience educating young persons on the water, 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 enhancing the Brendan experience. This year four of the Brendan students passed their Maryland State Boating Education Course while participating in their annual Brendan and Spirit of America program in St. Mary's Maryland.

The opportunity includes 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 Spirit of America Foundation proudly partners with Brendan in an effort to provide a program in all of its locations.

'Teaching the way our Children Learn': We believe in Ignacio Estradas quote; "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn". We have further developed our mission; "Teaching the Way our Children Learn", in a specialized curriculum, using the marine environment to improve the well-being, independence, and life sustaining opportunities of persons with intellectual and physical challenges, limitations, and disabilities, on a national level. The mission makes available the same non-traditional, hands on curriculum which including National on-water and knowledge based standards of education. This curriculum provides standardized educational components in a healthy, social environment and a 'Certificate of Proficient Successful Completion' for each milestone accomplished, through age and ability appropriate curriculum in a timeline considerate of each student's needs. The curriculum includes valuable educational experiences, which permits all students to grow at their pace, and in some case through their traditional school year, becoming emotionally and physically, confident, competent young mariners.

2016 - 2017 Locations (with more than one program in some of the states):

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

Other opportunities:

Spirit of America National Youth Boating Hall of Fame

Established in 2015, each year, if possible, a male and a female will be chosen for their established best practices in boating and water safety who have carried that to the next level, studies, athletic competitions, vocations, instructor capabilities, and potentially made a career from their passion for boating. Young person, graduates or not, to the age of 24, will qualify for nomination. More on web site.

Spirit of America Foundation: National Take Youth Boating Week

Established in 2014 and recognized by the United States Congress, the week surrounding July 4th encourages getting our youth on the water safely. Winners are chosen through photo and video application and watercraft prizes are awarded. More on web site.

Please contact our office directly for accurate and updated information or visit us at www.SpiritofAmerica95.org, on Facebook or Twitter for additional information



"No Child Left at the Dock" ©

"Future Boaters ... Future Business" ©

"Teaching the Way Our Children Learn" ©