



WISCONSIN DNR COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MOTORBOAT OPERATORS

At the ERCLA July Membership Meeting, Vilas County Sheriff Deputy Jason Molle addressed the most common boating violations that the officers on patrol see on our waterways. Many of these violations stem from one component of the law that is misunderstood: **Who is required to hold a valid boating safety certificate in Wisconsin?**

Most may think the answer is 10-15 year olds. Please read on for the correct answer and let's get everyone ready for next year's boating season.

- Wisconsin boating safety certification or out-of-state equivalent certification is required for all operators born on or after January 1, 1989.
- Wisconsin requires an operator to carry this lifetime boater education card when operating a motorboat or personal watercraft in Wisconsin
- Anyone is eligible to take the class and receive a safety education completion certificate; courses are designed at a 5th-grade level and up.



WISCONSIN BOATING RULES & REGULATIONS - WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT:

There are no age requirements for operating a boat that is not equipped with a motor. A person younger than 10 years may not operate a motorboat.

A person 10 or 11-year-olds may operate a motorboat only if:

- They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years of age who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

A person 12 to five-year-olds may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.

OR

- They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

A person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR

OR

- They are accompanied by another person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age and that person holds a valid boating safety certificate OR was born before January 1, 1989.

BOATING COURSE INFORMATION:

Instruction emphasizes navigation, laws, ethics, personal safety and the proper use of boats.

CLASS AVAILABILITY:

There is at least one class per county per year. To search for a recreational safety education course visit dnr.wisconsin.gov.

COST OF COURSE:

\$10.00 for a traditional classroom and \$29.95 to \$54.95 for internet courses.