

# AGFC Boating Instructor Certification Requirements

- At least 21 years old
- Successfully completed the Arkansas boating education course
- Submitted a signed and notarized AGFC Individual Record/Child/Adult Registry Check Consent Form
- Not convicted of an AGFC violation
- Approved by a local wildlife officer, regional education coordinator or the boating education coordinator



## The Boating Safety Seven

1. Wear your life jacket.
2. Take a boating safety class.
3. Carry all required safety gear.
4. Know your boat and its limitations.
5. Follow the boating "rules of the road."
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions.
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of other boaters.



Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
Boating Education  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
877-493-6424  
[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)

A+  
Make the  
Grade with  
Boating Safety



## Boating Education

Each year thousands of Arkansans hit the water in search of fish, fun and sun. Unfortunately, some of these trips end in tragedy.

In 2009 123 boats and personal watercraft were involved in boating accidents, resulting in 52 injuries and 17 fatalities. Each year, Arkansas has more reported boating accidents than hunting accidents. In fact, only 18 hunting accidents were reported in 2009, and none fatal. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is just as committed to increasing safety for boaters as it is to safe and ethical hunting.



## Education Is the Key

Since 2001, boating education has been mandatory for people operating motor-powered boats and sailboats. Just as you need a license to drive a car, anyone born after 1985 who is of legal age to operate a motorboat or sailboat, must have a Boating Education card.

Boating education is making a difference. Many boating accidents still occur on Arkansas waters, but younger people (the segment of the population required to take boating education) make up less than 10 percent of the operators involved in accidents. Only 14 operators involved in boating accidents in 2009 had taken some form of boating education. The average age of operators involved was 42, and many had more than 100 hours of boating experience before their accidents.

## Instructors Needed

Arkansans may take boating education through an online course, which costs \$24.50, or they may attend free classes. The traditional classroom setting takes a minimum of six hours and may be administered by trained volunteer or professional instructors.

Educators interested in becoming an official instructor will be provided with course materials and instruction on how to adapt the program to fit their educational framework. This training can count toward professional development credits.



In addition to written course materials, instructors can receive DVDs to help them in their classrooms. "One Summer Day," a professional-quality, 22-minute feature video can be used as an

excellent opening classroom session to focus students' attention and stress the importance of boating safety. This DVD and any other information on becoming a boating education instructor are available, free-of-charge, by calling the boating education program coordinator, 501-223-6495, or e-mailing [bcushing@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:bcushing@agfc.state.ar.us).

**Making waves can be fun,  
but let's all work together  
to keep it safe.**

### Boating Accidents and Fatalities by Year



### Operator Age Involved in Accidents, 2009

