



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
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Friday, Aug. 6, 2010

Boating Education Class

Kitsap County, Wash. – It's mid-summer, and with warmer temperatures here the local waters of Puget Sound are drawing large numbers of recreational boaters.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010 any boat operator, 30 years of age or younger, must have a mandatory Boater Education Card in their possession when operating a recreational power vessel of 15 horsepower or greater while on Washington's waterways.

Boaters are encouraged to attend a boating education class as soon as possible, and not wait until they are contacted by a marine patrol law enforcement officer to think about obtaining this required training and card.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Marine Services Unit is offering an opportunity to attend a boating education class.

The class consists of eight hours of instruction that covers basic boating knowledge, to include: rules of the nautical road, vessel equipment, boat trailers, launching, emergencies, navigation aides & lights and terminology.

Successful completion of the class includes passing a 75 point examination. Once the Boater Education Card is obtained, it is good for life.

Boating Education Class Schedule

Date & times: Saturday, Aug. 14, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Poplars Room, Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale.

Cost: The course of instruction is without charge. There is a \$10 administrative fee to cover the cost of the Boater Education Card.

RSVP to:

Deputy Chad Miller

Telephone: (360) 710-9216

E-mail: cmiller@co.kitsap.wa.us

The below chart is a phase-in schedule for obtaining the mandatory Boater Education Card. The card requirement was started Jan. 1, 2008 and is being phased-in through 2014. Boaters born before Jan. 1, 1955 are exempt from this law.

Year (Jan. 1)	Age group
2010	30 years and younger
2011	35 years and younger
2012	40 years and younger
2013	50 years and younger
2014	59 years and younger
After 2014	Card is required for any boater born on or after Jan. 1, 1955

For information about the Boating Safety Education Program, call (360) 902-8844, or visit online at: www.parks.wa.gov/boating

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