Boating Activity-Specific Plan

Camp Name: Enter text here. Date: Enter a date.

Prepared By: Enter text here. Title: Enter text here.

Phone number: Enter text here. Email: Enter text here.

Signature: _____

Complete the following plan for each boating activity that campers participate in. Use additional sheets if necessary. For offsite locations, complete the Activity-Specific Plan for Camp Trips. Submit the completed plan to the local health department or State District Office that has jurisdiction in the county where the camp is located for review.

A copy of the approved plan must be maintained at the camp and reviewed by the activity leader prior to overseeing the activity.

In addition to Subpart 7-2 of the NYS Sanitary Code, boats operated at children's camps must comply with NYS Navigation Law, which contains requirements for the inspection, operation, and reporting of injuries associated with public vessels. Contact the Marine Services unit of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) at 518-474-0445 or visit their website at www.nysparks.state.ny.us/boating/services.asp for questions or additional information regarding NYS Navigation Law and public vessel licensure and inspection.

Definition of a Public Vessel
As stated by the New York State Navigation Law, the term "Public Vessel" shall mean and include every vessel which is propelled in whole or in part by mechanical power and is used or operated for commercial purposes on the navigable waters of the state; that is either carrying passengers, carrying freight, towing, or for any other use for which compensation is received, either directly or where provided as an accommodation, advantage, facility, or privilege at any place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement. (Section 2.6(a), NYS Navigation Law)

For Health Department Use Only

Approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Reviewer: Enter text here. Date: Enter a date. Comments: Enter text here.

Boating is a popular activity at many children's camps. In addition to providing hours of enjoyment, boating activities also include the risk of injury or drowning.

A camp boating activity or trip leader is required to oversee all watercraft activities. The leader must be least 18 years-old, experienced, and competent in the type of boating activity they are overseeing. NYSDOH Supervision of Boating Activities Fact Sheet provides factors to consider when selecting a camp's boating activity or trip leader including age, maturity, training, and certifications. It is available at www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/boating_fact_sheet.htm or from your local health department.

Lifeguards are a valuable addition to staff overseeing boating activities. Lifeguards overseeing boating activities should receive additional training in watercraft rescue techniques.

A minimum of one activity leader and one staff member must supervise activities that occur at locations where additional camp staff assistance is not readily available (within five minutes).

When the activity is conducted at a location where the camp staff certified in first aid and CPR are not readily available, the activity leader must possess or be accompanied by staff who possesses current first aid and CPR certification in an approved course. NYSDOH Fact Sheets listing approved CPR and First aid certifications are available at www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps or by contacting your local health department.

Complete a Boating Activity table for each boating activity that campers participate in. Types of **boating with the same supervision and safety procedures may be listed together.** Use additional sheets if necessary.

Boating Activity	
Type of Boating	☐ Row ☐ Sail ☐ Canoe ☐ Kayak ☐ Motor ☐ Paddle ☐ Other (specify): Enter text here.
Location	☐ On-site ☐ Off-site (specify location): Enter text here.
Type of Water	☐ Flat ☐ Flowing ☐ Surf ☐ White Water (indicate stream classification): Enter text here.
Counselor to Camper Ratio	☐ 1:8 for campers 6-years and older ☐ 1:6 for campers younger than 6 years old ☐ Other (specify): Enter text here.
Required Safety Equipment	☐ None required ☐ Life jacket* ☐ Helmet ☐ Other (specify): Enter text here. *See the informational text box at the end of this document for guidance on lifejacket usage.

Activity Leader prerequisites (e.g. training, skills, experience, certification)	☐ Minimum age: ☐ 18 years-old ☐ 21 years-old or older ☐ Other (specify): Enter text here. ☐ Experience (specify in number of weeks or other quantifiable time period): Enter text here. ☐ Certification(s) (specify): Enter text here. ☐ Training (specify): Enter text here. ☐ Other Skill or knowledge required (specify): Enter text here.
Is a lifeguard required?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many and where will they be positioned? Enter text here.
Are CPR and first aid staff required?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Participant Prerequisites (Training, Skills, Age, etc.)	☐ None ☐ Classified as a "swimmer" ☐ Minimum of Enter text here. years old ☐ Activity safety orientation ☐ Boater safety course ☐ Demonstrate ability to properly leave and re-enter a swamped boat ☐ Other (specify): Enter text here.
Specify safety rules or precautions.	
Enter text here.	
Supervision – Specify how staff, counselors, and specialty activity staff (if any) coordinate the supervision of campers during this activity. For flowing bodies of water, indicate procedures for keeping the group together and positioning of staff. For flat water, indicate areas that are off limits and positioning of staff to ensure complete surveillance.	
Enter text here.	
Indicate procedures for emergencies such as a capsized boat.	
Enter text here.	
Specify additional policies and procedures for the boating activity.	
Enter text here.	

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Life Jackets. They Float. You Don't!

Wearing your life jacket (life vest or personal flotation device - PFD) can save your life! When boating, occupants seldom expect to find themselves in the water; but if they do, and are not wearing a life jacket, they increase their chance of becoming a boating statistic. Approximately 83 percent of the people who died in boating accidents in the United States in 2016 were not wearing life jackets. Since 1985, *New York State has required all boat occupants at children's camps to WEAR United States Coast Guard-approved life jackets*. No camper boating deaths have occurred since 1980 in New York State.

What Type is Right?

The following types are all accepted as meeting the life jacket requirements for NYS children's camps. Look for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) approval and type on the label.

Type I - Offshore Life Jacket: Designed for large, rough waters where rescue may not be prompt and to turn most unconscious wearers face up. These PFDs are most often found on commercial crafts. They tend to be bulky.

Type II - Near Shore Buoyant Vest: Less bulky and providing less floatation than Type I, these vests are for use in calm inland waters where there is a chance of fast rescue; vest will turn some wearers face up.

Type III - Flotation Aids: Generally the most comfortable type of life jacket. This type includes many activity specific designs (i.e. water skiing, fishing, sailing, etc.), so be sure to check the label. They are not designed to turn the unconscious wearer face up, but will keep the wearer upright in the water.

Type V – Special Use Hybrids: A Type V is any approved device designed for specific and restricted use. The specific approved use of a Type V and any restricted or limitations will be described on the device label. Some Type V PFDs are, under certain conditions, approved as a replacement for a Type III or other device, usually with the provision that they be worn.

Inflatable PFDs

The USCG does approve inflatable PFDs for use on recreational vessels; however, they are not allowed for non-swimmers, water skiers, and youths under the age of 16 or riders of personal watercraft. Inflatable PFDs require the user to pay careful attention to the condition of the device. Inflatable PFDs must have a full cylinder and all status indicators on the inflator must be green, or the device is not acceptable. The wear must also read the approval label to determine if it is suitable for the water activity being conducted.

Belt pack inflatable PFDs are Type V life jackets with Type III performance because you have to slip the inflated chamber over your head. The wearer must be conscience in order to place the jacket over their head.

Hybrid (Foam & Inflation)
Hybrid PFDs can be used by swimmers & non-swimmers. This form of PFD comes with a foam-padded vest with an inflatable bladder, sort of a type III and an inflatable type V. As with all other types of PFDs they come in Adult, Youth, and Child sizes. The USCG approval is for wearable styles only; they must be

worn to be considered an approved device. The wearer must also read the approval label to determine if this type of PFD is suitable for the water activity they are participating in. Some are designed for specific water sports.

The Fit is It!

When you select life jackets for your children's camp and to fit individuals, keep in mind they must be sized appropriately. Read the label to determine the size and weight restrictions. Life jackets should be adjusted to fit snugly. To determine this, lift the shoulders of the life jacket; it's too big if there is more than three inches between the shoulders of the wearer and the device, or if the device slips over the chin or ears. The use of straps between the legs is an important feature on life jackets for small children.

Check Life Jackets

Check flotation characteristics at the beginning of each season. Depending on materials, care and use, there is a potential for buoyancy loss. Test: fit the jacket to the wearer and have them walk gradually into the water until it completely supports the wearer. If the PFD floats the person out of the water and feels comfortable, the device is still usable.

Check the materials for wear and tear, pulling seams, straps and buckles for strength. Kapok filled jackets should be checked for air leaks/moisture, which causes the Kapok to deteriorate and lose buoyancy. Discard when in doubt.

Dry life jackets and store out of the sun, away from chemicals such as gasoline or oil.

Information provided by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council.