



The Antrim County Sheriff's Office is offering a **free** boater safety course and exam for students (must be 12 or older) and adults as part of the "2020 Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Boat Legal" Training Initiative. Upon successful completion of the course and exam, a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) will be awarded. As always, parents and guardians are welcome to attend with students. Our course with exam and certification offered by the ACSO is at no cost to the participants. The instructor led courses offer real-world experiences and the opportunity for class discussion and questions.

Why: Knowledgeable boat/PWC operators are the key to safe and enjoyable use of our county's water resources. In addition, the law states:

Boats - Any person born after July 1, 1996, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate to operate any boat with a motor greater than 6 hp.

PWCs - Any person born after December 31, 1978, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate to operate any personal watercraft (PWC/Jet Ski).

Where: All classes will be held from 8:00 am to approximately 3:00 pm.

April 18, 2020	Mancelona High School
April 25, 2020	Bellaire High School
May 2, 2020	Elk Rapids High School
May 9, 2020	Central Lake High School

Lunch will be provided, compliments of the following lake associations:

- Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA)
- Friends of Clam Lake (FoCL)
- Three Lakes Association (TLA)
- Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA)
- Intermediate Lake Association (ILA)

Registration: Participants should register at the respective high school or middle school office, where they can pick up and then read the pre-study Michigan course book: "A Course on Responsible Boating".

Details: The course will be approximately 4.5 hours with an additional 60 - 90 minute period for the exam and awarding of the Boating Safety Certificates. Topics will include:

- Know Your Boat
- Before You Get Underway
- Operating Your Boat Safely
- The Legal Requirements of Boating

- Boating Emergencies, What To Do
- Enjoying Water Sports with Your Boat

In addition, there will be discussion on local Antrim County rules, protecting local wildlife and best boating practices. The course is conducted by MDNR certified Boating Safety Instructors from the Antrim County Sheriff's Office, Marine Patrol.