

*Kids Don't Float* Boating Safety Pool Sessions are 50 minutes of instruction and 10 minutes of optional free time, but can be tailored to meet the needs of the group. Pool rental fees are paid by the group or sponsor, all logistics including permission slips of minors, transportation, etc. and safety (i.e. lifeguards) are the responsibility of the group. The Alaska Office of Boating Safety facilitates the pool session under the auspices of the pool rental group.

There are four stations that participants rotate through to learn boating safety skills. The Boating Safety Pool Session is designed to address Alaska's boating fatality statistics. *Five of six boating fatalities are caused by a capsized, swamping, or fall overboard.*

1. **Man-Overboard/Reach** - This station reviews some techniques and scenarios for recovering a person (or object) that has fallen overboard. This station addresses some potential causes for a fall overboard.
2. **Clothing** - Participants have the opportunity to experience the challenge of handling a water immersion event while fully clothed. Often, Alaskans boat with multiple layers of clothing; accidents happen fast when least expected. This activity emphasizes that wearing a life jacket is critical for survival.
3. **Life Jackets**- This station allows participants to experience the proper fit of a life jacket, introduces different styles, lets the wearer evaluate its performance, and decide which life jacket is best for them.
4. **Canoe/Sinking Boat**- Participants experience how a life jacket helps in a capsized or swamping situation that leads to a cold water immersion event. They learn about different factors that could contribute to a capsized or swamping such as overloading, improper balance, or reaching overboard. Participants also learn how to self rescue in an over-turned small boat.