

Kids Don't Float Pool Session Overview

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, safety (i.e. lifeguards), etc. are the responsibility of the group. The Alaska Office of Boating Safety facilitates the pool session under the auspices of the pool rental group.

Students practice lifesaving boating safety skills by rotating through four interactive stations in a controlled learning environment. The Boating Safety Pool Session is designed to address Alaska's boating fatality statistics: five of six boating fatalities are caused by capsizing, swamping, or falling overboard.

1. **Man-Overboard/Reach** - This station reviews some techniques for rescuing a person who has fallen overboard and addresses some potential causes of a fall overboard.

2. **Clothing** – At this station participants are invited to experience the challenge of being immersed in water while fully clothed. Alaskans usually wear multiple layers of clothing while boating. Accidents can happen fast and when least expected; this station emphasizes that wearing a life jacket is critical for survival.

3. **Life Jackets**- This station introduces different styles of life jackets and allows participants to experience the proper fit of a life jacket, evaluate its performance, and decide which life jacket is best for them.

4. **Canoe/Sinking Boat**- At this station participants experience how a life jacket helps in the event of capsizing or swamping a boat. They learn about different factors that could contribute to capsizing or swamping, such as overloading, improper balance, or reaching overboard. Participants also learn how to self-rescue in a small overturned boat.