



# 2026 Volunteer Boater Safety Meeting

## C.A.S.T.'s Big 3

- 1. Children must wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times when on a dock or boat. No exceptions.**
- 2. Each child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times. No exceptions. The parent/guardian is responsible for the child during the entire event. Separation for any length of time will not be permitted, including bathroom breaks. Volunteers should never be alone with a child during the event.**
- 3. Everyone must check-in at the registration area. All child participants and volunteers must register either online or on paper. All family members/guests of fishing participants must be listed on event registration forms.**

## Important Reminders For The Day

- Event perimeter is the area to stay within today. Defined perimeter for fishing is (on large lakes, rivers or estuaries, define limits a boat should not travel past) \_\_\_\_\_. Defined land area perimeter for shore activities is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Restrooms are located \_\_\_\_\_. First Aid Kit is located \_\_\_\_\_.
- Volunteers must stay aware of surroundings to reduce risks to children. Immediately report hazards or dangers concerning the safety of the children with special needs to the event coordinator.
- No swimming should take place during the event.
- **Boaters**
  - No bass boat passengers may sit on the front or back deck while the big engine is running. The maximum number of guests in a bass boat is 3 people.
  - Wear your ignition kill switch and explain to guests that it is put on the boat for protection of everyone if the boater is ejected from the watercraft. Show how it works.
  - You are the Captain of your boat. Feel free to explain what your guests can and cannot do while they are a guest in your watercraft.
  - Assist all guests in and out of your boat. Do not let them load or unload without assistance.
  - We want you to fish as well as the child, hand-offs are great.
  - Monitor your guests reactions and comfort levels. Keep it inspirational. Adjust boat speed accordingly.
- Special needs vary widely. Some are visible. Some are invisible. Remember that some children will be more interested in fishing than others, some will want to learn basic techniques, some will just want to be present, some will have to overcome factors just to be able to arrive at the event. Some will want to return early. Celebrate everyone equally.
  - Keep it simple. This is not a tournament. There is no competition. Remember when you were young, and fishing was just - fun. Some children will catch, touch and/or see their first fish today.
- Lunch will be at \_\_\_\_\_. Please return from the water on time. The latest you should be back is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Plan to stay for lunch and the awards celebration. Your participation is needed to celebrate and honor each child as they receive their award plaque.
- Here is the coordinator's phone number \_\_\_\_\_. Call if you have any issues with your boat or fishing guests.  
**In case of a medical emergency, call 911.**
- Now is the best time to share fishing information. Hazards on the water, good fishing spots, etc.
- Share horizontal photos and videos of the children with their day's catches with the Event Coordinator via text, email or social media using #castforkids
- Thank you for you time, participation and commitment to safety. Lets go make some memories.