

Law Enforcement Today with Sheriff Toulon



Conversation Card Boating Safety

With the warmer weather, many Long Island boaters are heading out on the water. It is important to know that if you are 10 years old or older, or born on or after May 1, 1996, you need to have a Boating Safety Certificate. Anyone born before May 1, 1996 is not required to obtain a certificate.

Law enforcement officers, including our Deputy Sheriff's regularly patrol the waterways to ensure that New York State laws are being followed, and that boaters are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs while operating their watercraft.

If you were born on or after May 1, 1996, you are required to complete a state approved Boating Safety Education Course and obtain a boating safety certificate to operate a boat in New York State. To operate any personal watercraft, like a Wave Runner or Jet Ski, you must be 14 and older and obtain your Boating Safety Certificate.

Courses are offered in the classroom and online. The easiest way to find an approved course is to visit parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating for course information.