

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

### WHO CAN RIDE?

- Manufacturers recommend operators be at least 16 years old. Check state laws.
- Riders whose feet reach the footwell floor
- Those wearing appropriate equipment including:
  - U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket
  - A wet suit bottom or clothing that provides an equivalent level of protection
- Those who are able to hold on to handholds or person in front of them



U.S. Coast Guard  
*Boating Safety Division*  
[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

NTSB  
*National Transportation Safety Board*  
[www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov)

NASBLA  
*National Association of State Boating  
Law Administrators*  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

NSBC  
*National Safe Boating Council*  
[www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org)

PWIA  
*Personal Watercraft Industry Association*  
To learn more about manufacturer's recommendations,  
please visit [www.pwia.org/safety](http://www.pwia.org/safety)

For more information please contact:



[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)  
Brought to you by the U.S. Coast Guard



# Children and Personal Watercraft



**BOAT**  
*Responsibly*



**OWNED...  
RENTED...  
BORROWED...  
....BE EDUCATED.**

**WHAT  
YOU SHOULD  
KNOW  
BEFORE YOU GO...**

## NATIONAL STATISTICS SHOW:

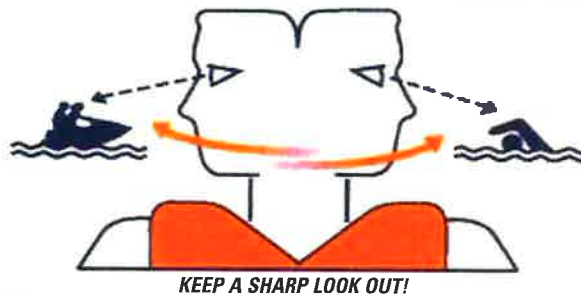
In one year 112 children under 12 were injured on PWC's.

**25%**

*OF THESE WERE OPERATORS,  
IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAWS  
AND MANUFACTURERS'  
RECOMMENDATIONS*

**80%**

*OF THESE OPERATORS DID NOT  
HAVE FORMAL TRAINING*



*"Too often we are seeing instances where an adult will rent a personal watercraft and then allow family and friends operate it with little or no regard to age or boating education and training."*

*-Boating Safety Division-USCG*

- Take a boater education class with your children
- Be aware of all manufacturers' recommendations & local laws concerning operation by children

## SAFE OPERATION

- Always attach engine shut-off lanyard
- Never allow passengers to ride in front of the operator
- Always stay clear of intake grate & water jet
- Ensure your child understands a PWC is not a toy
- Scan constantly for people, objects and other watercraft

## STATISTICS

- Lack of experience and excessive speed caused 60% of the accidents when the operator was age 12 or less
- Collisions result in more injuries and deaths than any other type of PWC accident
- Most PWC accidents occur in the first 20 hours of operation