

LIFE JACKET LOANER STATIONS



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission | **BOATING PROGRAM**



HELP PROMOTE SAFE BOATING

Are you a marina or park owner or manager whose facility provides boating access? Are you interested in helping promote safe boating out of your facility?

Washington State Parks' Boating Program, in partnership with the Washington Drowning Prevention Network, can help you provide free life jackets to the public through our free statewide life jacket loaner program. The goal of the program is to increase the use of life jackets and educate recreational boaters about the importance of wearing a properly fitted life jacket.

How does the program work?

When people go out boating and don't have a life jacket or find theirs doesn't fit properly, they can visit a loaner station and borrow an infant, child, youth or adult life jacket for the day or weekend—at no charge. When finished, they simply return the life jackets to the same station.



Dock box prototype for life jacket loaner stations.

What assistance does the Boating Program provide?

We will provide life jackets in a variety of sizes and a dock box for storage. Directions for using the life jacket loaner station is printed inside the top lid in English and Spanish. Instructions include how to choose the right size and properly fit the life jacket and how to return it.

What are my responsibilities?

- Provide life jackets to the public at no cost.
- Place loaner station at water-access sites used for boating and paddling.
 - Locations primarily used for swimming are not eligible.
- Inspect life jackets regularly to ensure they are offered in serviceable condition: no rips, tears, holes, mold, etc.
- Pull and dispose of any non-serviceable life jackets.
- Provide an annual summary report noting approximate usage of the station.

What about ongoing maintenance?

We will replace life jackets on an annual basis. Cheyenne Manufacturing is providing the dock boxes, which are available while supplies last. You are responsible for maintaining appropriate storage and signage.

Want more information?

Contact **Derek VanDyke**, Boating Program education and outreach coordinator, at 360-902-8842 or derek.vandyke@parks.wa.gov. You can apply for a life jacket loaner station at any time.