

"Water Safety Messages for Shoppers"

TOPIC: Water Safety

TARGET AUDIENCE/AUDIENCE: To decorate the bags – 3rd through 6th graders, distribute bags to Adults

THEME: Everyone should be made aware of general water safety principles.

GOAL: Students will learn basic water safety principles, will practice them, and encourage others to do so also.

OBJECTIVES: Students and shoppers will be able to recall one water safety principle. Students will have fun decorating the bags and shoppers will enjoy receiving the bags.

ACTIVITY PLAN:

- A. Contact grocery stores that use large paper bags. See if the manager will let you “borrow” enough bags so that each student (Grades 3rd –6th) in the local school can decorate one. At least one side of the bags needs to be blank. Grocery stores usually get bags in bundles of 500.
- B. Explain the program to the manager. Let them know what the students are going to do with the bags and explain the goal of the program. Explain that you would like the bags distributed during National Safe Boating Week and that the bags will be returned a couple of days before it starts.
- C. National Safe Boating Week is around the third week in May.
- D. Contact the principals at the elementary schools to see if they would like their students to participate in this program. Explain the program to them. Let them know that you will drop off and pick up the bags at the schools.
- E. Each student gets one bag to decorate. They decorate their bag with pictures and messages pertaining to water safety.
- F. The bags can be decorated with colored pencils, markers, or paint. Items can also be glued on to the bags as long as the bag lies flat when it is finished.
- G. Students can put their school name and their name (first name only) on the bags.
- H. Teachers should encourage the students to be creative.
- I. If the teacher would like for the students to decorate more than one bag they can do so as long as there is enough bags for everyone.
- J. Here are some things that you might want to provide the teachers.
 - 1) A water safety reference packet that includes instructions on how the students should decorate the bags, posters, brochures, stickers, etc.
 - 2) Program or Assembly on water safety
 - 3) Videos and activities on water safety
 - 4) Inform them of water safety web sites that they can visit such as <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil> or www.safeboatingcouncil.org
- K. Give the schools a month to decorate the bags.
- L. Pick up the bags from the stores and take them to the schools. After the students are done decorating the bags pick them up from the schools and return them to the schools a couple of days before National Safe Boating Week starts.
- M. Inspect the bags before you take them back to the stores. Make sure the water safety message is appropriate and that the student’s full name is not on the bag.
- N. Send a thank you letter to the schools and stores that participated in the program.
- O. This is a fun and inexpensive way to spread the water safety message.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT:

Large paper grocery bags supplied by grocery stores

Decorating materials provided by the schools

Water safety brochures, posters, and other information