

Boating Obstacle Course or Relay Race

Topic: Boating Safety

Target: 5th grade - Adult

Time: 30 - 40 minutes

Theme: Buoy markers are placed in areas to help prevent accidents, but they only work if you obey them.

Goal: Participants will understand that buoy markers are in place to help ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Objective(s): Participants will obey all buoy markers while boating.

Description:

- A. Explain the different types of buoys and how a boater should react to each one.
- B. Explain to the participants that they will be acting as if they are driving a boat while going through the course.
- C. They will need to obey all buoy markers. If they make a wrong decision they have to return to the starting line.
- D. This game can either be conducted as an obstacle course for individuals or a relay race for teams.
- E. Stations -

Station 1: Life jackets

Pile of life jackets, several sizes and styles. Participants must dig through the pile to find and a life jacket that will fit them properly. They must put the life jacket on properly before they proceed. Explain why it is important to wear a life jacket while boating and ensure that they have put it on properly.

Station 2: Channel Buoys

Place a red buoy on the left and a green or black buoy on the right. Ask each participant after they go through the buoys correctly if they are traveling upstream or downstream.

Station 3: Diver Down Buoy and Flag

Participants must maintain a distance of 150 or more between themselves and the buoy.

Station 4: No wake Buoy

Participants must proceed slowly in this area.

Station 5: No boats Buoys

Participants must not enter this area, turn around and proceed back through the course.

- F. For a relay race: After returning their life jacket to Station 1 they must tag the next person in line and the team continues until everyone has completed the course.
- G. After the participant or participants have completed the course explain to them again why it is important to obey all buoy markers.

Suggested Materials & Equipment:

Poster that shows the different types of buoys, No Wake buoy, Different sizes and styles of life jackets

Real buoys or posters of buoys for the stations, No Boat buoy, Channel markers - 1 green or black and 1 red,

Diver Down buoy and flag