



# Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

## BOATING MERIT

Note: Prior to beginning this merit, you must complete the Swimming Merit.

Operation of a boat or personal watercraft (PWC) requires adult supervision AND a parent's or legal guardian's permission. Permission does not imply or endorse the validity to operate the craft if the state requires certification. Always follow the state law. Personal floatation devices (PFDs) are required for every occupant of the vessel.

1. Write your state's requirements for operating rowboats, sailboats, powerboats, and personal watercraft vessels in rivers and lakes. List any boating use restrictions defined for your state's waters (e.g., some waters don't allow boats of any kind). List your state's minimum age requirement for completing any required certification course. You are responsible to know your state's requirements regarding the completion of a safety course for certification.
2. Define these terms and explain how they apply to boating in your state.
  - a. Proctored exam
  - b. Unproctored exam
  - c. Education is mandatory
  - d. No mandatory educational requirements
  - e. Personal watercraft
  - f. Warning signs that read: No boats, no motors, no wake, no wake lakes, no wake rivers, and no wake areas
3. Describe what happens after you complete a boating safety course and are certified and then operate a PWC in another state. Explain the validity or invalidity of your certificate by listing examples from different states.
4. List at least ten federal laws that govern boating requirements. Select no more than one regulation from any of the following categories:

- Display of numbers
- Fire extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Personal floatation devices
- Negligent operation
- Equipment requirement
- Visual distress signal
- Backfire flame control
- Reporting boating accidents
- Sound producing devices
- Navigation lights
- Shapes and lights
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations
- Pollution regulations
- Marine sanitation devices
- Additional recommended equipment
- Courtesy Marine Examination (CME) additional regulations

### Suggested Resources

Boatsafe web site (boating courses, boating tips, boating safety, boating regulations by state)  
International Sail and Powerboat Association web site  
U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety web site

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