

Frequently asked questions

Boating Safety Certificates



I earned a state safety certificate when I was young. Does that count? Yes, provided you still have a copy of your original certificate, and you were under the age of 18 at the time. Records do not exist for courses taught prior to the early 1990's.

Can I use my NY safety certificate in other states? Yes. Because the New York Safe Boating Course is NASBLA approved it is accepted in other states and Canada.

I'm visiting New York. Will my safety certificate from my home state be sufficient? Yes, provided it was issued from your current state of residence, and the course was approved by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators. Look for the NASBLA logo on your certificate.

I just bought a boat; will I need a course immediately? No. You would have 120 days from date of purchase in which to complete a course if you are required to have a certificate.

Will I need a course in order to rent a motorboat in New York? No. If you are at least 18 years old, you may rent without completing a course. The livery should demonstrate how to properly use the boat before renting it however. Persons under the age of 18 may only rent a motorboat if they hold a safety certificate.

I lost my safety certificate. How can I get a replacement? Please complete and print the [Application for Replacement NY Safe Boating Certificate](#) and forward it to our office with the \$10.00 fee.

What if I lost my temporary certificate? Temporary certificates cannot be replaced.

Why did my instructor give me two temporary certificates? All students receive a white temporary certificate after successfully completing the course. If you are older than 18 at the completion of the course you receive a yellow copy, your application for a permanent boating safety certificate. Forward it to our office with the \$10.00 fee.

Why haven't I received my safety certificate yet? Processing a certificate may take up to 60 days depending on the volume of applications sent to this office. If you are over the age of eighteen, ensure that you have sent in your application for a permanent boating safety certificate and \$10 fee.

How can I become an instructor? To become a State certified instructor you must be at least 18 years of age and be able to demonstrate an ability to instruct. [For more information, or to begin the certification process](#)

I have a US Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety certificate. Can I exchange it for a New York boating safety certificate? No. The same is true for US Power Squadron boating safety certificate. New York State can only issue a boating safety certificate to persons that have successfully completed a NYS classroom course.

I took a class online and I have lost my permanent card, can you issue me a replacement card? You need to go to the online provider that issued your card. The same is true for lost Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary cards. NYS can only issue replacement certificates for the NY Safe Boating Course.