

## Coast Guard Auxiliary offers boating safety tips

Boating season is here, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary reminds boaters of 10 precautions to take when getting ready to head out on the water:

- **Check the weather forecast.** A favorable forecast indicates low to moderate predicted winds, good visibility and the absence of dangerous squalls. You can get marine forecasts, which predict wave heights and winds, on NOAA weather radio on your VHF.

- **If a marine forecast isn't available,** listen to a regular forecast for wind conditions and visibility.

- **Check water conditions.** Wind strength, area and duration all contribute to wave height. Breaking waves produce a white foam. What sea conditions are acceptable depend on what conditions

your boat was designed to handle and the crew's experience.

- **File a float plan.** Someone responsible needs to know your plans, including where you are going and when you intend to return.

- **Double-check your equipment.** Before you leave, make sure you have the necessary equipment onboard and that it's all in good working condition.

- **Practice passenger communication.** You're the captain. Don't be afraid to issue instructions. Make sure your passengers and crew know what's expected of them and where they can find needed equipment. The skipper is obligated to educate everyone on board about matters of safety.

- **Load your boat properly.** Your boat should sit level at the waterline when fully loaded.

Load passengers and equipment alternately to achieve proper trim. Pack gear to balance the load, and don't overload. Your boat may have a label identifying its capacity.

- **Wear your life jackets.** Children under 13 must wear life jackets when underway on a recreational boat unless they're in an enclosed cabin or below decks, or unless a more stringent state regulation applies. You're required to have life jackets for everyone on board, and everyone should wear one.

- **Check engine compartment, and run blowers, if applicable.** Always check your engine compartment for fuel, fuel vapor and water, and run your blower for four minutes to clear the air before running the engines or using electrical

devices. Blowers are specially sealed to prevent ignition of fuel vapors. Smell the bilge blower outlet to verify the absence of gas fumes.

- **Start and warm the engine.** Cold engines can stall. Start your engine, and let it run until it's running smoothly before leaving the dock and while you still have the boat under control with lines.

- **Designate an alternate skipper.** Appoint someone to take over should you become incapacitated. Practice different situations where this might be necessary.

To schedule a free vessel safety check from a certified examiner, call Certified Examiner and Coast Guard Auxiliary Staff Officer Jonathan Yoder at 541-991-1181.

## SWC announces dates for hands-on summer camp

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is pleased to announce summer camp dates for students entering fourth grade through high school.

This year SWC is offering one camp for these age groups on June 26 through 29.

Eligible students are encouraged to be a part of exploring the Siuslaw watershed's many rivers, streams, and lakes.

During the camp participants travel throughout the Siuslaw Watershed learning about plants, animals, water and land.

Classes focus on the restoration work that is being done to keep the watershed healthy.

Campers will get a chance to make a difference by doing hands-on restoration work.

Also highlighted are some of the unique recreation opportunities in the watershed such as stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing and sandboarding.

The cost to attend the SWC Camp is \$75 from June 26 through 29 and scholarships are available.

Registration packets are available on our website at [siuslaw.org/camps](http://siuslaw.org/camps). Those interested may also contact the SWC office at 541-268-3044 to request a packet.

Siuslaw Watershed Camps are made possible with funding from Siuslaw National Forest Stewardship, Western Lane Community Foundation, in partnership with Siuslaw School District, and through private donations.

## Annual Surfriders' youth surfing competition June 17

The Surfrider Foundation's Newport, Siuslaw and Portland Chapters have announced they will be hosting the ninth annual Otter Rock 'n' Roll Youth Surf Competition and Beach Cleanup Challenge in celebration of International Surfing Day.

Observed globally, International Surfing Day celebrates the sport of surfing and helps raise awareness about issues facing our ocean, waves and beaches. The Otter Rock n Roll will take place Saturday, June 17, at Otter Rock/Devil's Punchbowl State Park, from 8

a.m. to 3 p.m. An age-18-and-under youth surf contest, the event is open to surfers of all skill levels, is family-friendly and welcomes the general beachgoing public.

Event pre-registration is \$25 at [www.otterrockandroll.com](http://www.otterrockandroll.com). Space is limited so sign up early to reserve a spot.

Beach registration is \$35 and closes at 8 a.m.

All participants will receive an event T-shirt and prizes from local sponsors. There will be beach games and activities throughout the day including a special beach cleanup chal-

lenge, where youth can compete for different prizes through various stewardship activities.

From the no-experience necessary beginner division with lessons and the parent with child division to the more competitive 13-15 and 16-18 year old divisions (both boys and girls), there is something here for all water and beach lovers.

Otter Rock n Roll began nine years ago in celebration of International Surfing Day, which is officially observed on June 20 uniting surfers from around the world to celebrate

the sport of surfing and give back to our ocean, waves and beaches through stewardship activities.

"This is a great opportunity to engage in ocean stewardship, physical activity and family friendly competition," said Vince Pappalardo of the Surfrider Newport Chapter and organizer of the event.

Pre-registration is \$25 online at [otterrockandroll.com](http://otterrockandroll.com) by June 14. Beach Registration on the day of the event is \$35, and closes at 8 a.m.

No exceptions.

## Novie campers can learn from overnight with OPRD

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) welcomes beginning campers to join in an overnight guided camping experience this summer at an Oregon state park.

For \$30 per family, OPRD provides tents, sleeping bags and other gear. Volunteers will help campers set up tents, build campfires, prepare meals in the campsite and more. Activities could include

ranger-led hikes, owl prowls, bat chats and plenty of s'mores.

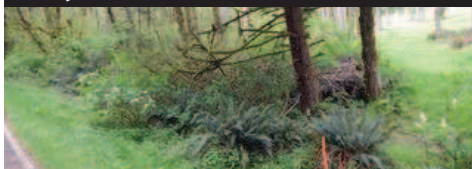
Register for one of the following events by calling 800-551-6949. Most events are limited to 35 people and spots are filling quickly:

- June 16-18: L.L.Stub Stewart Park
- June 30-July 2: Deschutes River
- July 7-9: Cascadia
- July 21-23: Silver Falls

# the spotlight

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