



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

"Save the Lake" is a non-profit fund investing in the environmental quality and recreational enjoyment of Lake Minnetonka.

SAVE THE LAKE

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LMCD NEWS- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pictures Attached

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FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSE FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS THROUGH LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A free boating safety course is being offered Thursday, October 20, 2016 for youth ages 12 to 17 and adults. Energetic presenters will help participants obtain their Watercraft Operator's Permit through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The *Lake Minnetonka Boater Safety Education Program* explains ways to stay safe while having fun on the water.

In Minnesota, a Watercraft Operator's Permit is required for youth ages 12 to 17 years to operate a boat over 25 hp without adult supervision and for youth ages 14 to 17 years to operate a personal watercraft unsupervised. Adults who obtain a Watercraft Operator's Permit may receive discounts on their boat insurance.

Jay Soule, Al & Alma's General Manager and a Boat Captain since 1993, will lead the class. According to Soule, "The class includes hands-on demonstrations using fire extinguishers, tying knots, and other practical boating skills. It is an opportunity to learn about boating while making Lake Minnetonka safer for everyone."

The boating safety course is free for participants including a complimentary lunch and snacks for all participants. There is a \$22.50 fee after passing the exam to receive the Watercraft Operator's Permit. This permit fee will be reimbursed upon request for youth ages 12 to 17 years through the *Save the Lake Fund*. **The registration deadline is October 13. Class size is limited so register early to save your spot!**

This course is sponsored by the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), through its *Save the Lake Fund*, and in partnership with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol. The free training is made possible through private contributions to *Save the Lake*.

The *Lake Minnetonka Boater Safety Education Program* will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Westonka Public Schools' Education Service Center, located at 5901 Sunnyfield Road E in Minnetrista. The class will begin at 7:45 am and continue through 6 pm. For more details and to register, visit the LMCD's website, www.lmcd.org, main page under "Hot Topics." Direct registration questions to Administrative Assistant Emily Herman at eherman@lmcd.org or 952-745-0789.

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