



Little York Lake Preservation Society

Little York Lake Etiquette

April 14, 2022

LYLPS would love you to enjoy our beautiful lake but do so safely and respectfully of your neighbors and fellow boaters. These guidelines will help you to understand how to do so.

Tips for Boating Fun!

Boating & Jet Skiing can be fun but its best to know these safety guidelines.

Navigation direction: LYL is navigated counterclockwise.

1. Wear A Life Jacket

Be ready to capsize and swim sometimes when boating; and for cold water immersion as cold water can lower core body temperature leading to inability to move, hypothermia, and even drowning. Wearing a life jacket can prevent drowning. According to 2015 US Coast Guard Statistics on recreational boating, "Where cause of death was known, 76% of fatal boating accidents victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 85% were not wearing a life jacket." Federal law requires children under 12 to wear a life Jacket aboard any vessel.

- The state of New York requires one wearable Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person that is aboard a vessel. All PFDs must be readily accessible. Flotation devices that are ripped or in poor condition are not considered approved.
- Any person towed behind a vessel must be wearing a PFD.
- In addition to the above requirement, one Type IV U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and readily accessible. Type V PFDs are approved but must be worn to be considered legal.

2. Carry A Sound Producing Device

If in trouble, you can blow a US Coast Guard approved whistle longer than you can yell for help.

3. If boating alone

If you are going boating for just a few hours, let someone know where you expect to be and when you expect to return.



4. Know Your Limits

Can you recognize water, wind, weather conditions, or when you are tired? Are you dressed correctly for the weather? Make good choices before venturing out.

5. Get Education

Boating education benefits skippers, passengers, and vessels alike, whatever your age. Knowledge about boating, Jet Skiing and paddle safety can reduce accidents, fatalities, and property damage. Check out this list of in-person and online sources of education today!

[Click here for more information](#). And here [Rules of the Road: Boat US Foundation](#)

6. Assess Conditions Continuously for Vessel Traffic, Water, and Weather

Vessel traffic, operator skill, sun, waves, wind, and temperatures can be more of a factor than one might think. Operate your vessel in a safe and responsible manner. Keep out of the way of motorboats; group paddlers best travel behind one another rather than abreast and possibly blocking the waterway. Jet Skis and other motored vessels must take special care around non-motored vessels. They have the right of way. Also be on the look out for water skiers, those boats can sometimes be distracted or otherwise not able to react quickly.

7. Have a paddle/oar on Board

Always have a paddle or oar available in case your motor fails. If you see someone disabled offer to tow them in.

8. Use Your Water Voice

Sound carries across the water so when talking with other members of your group be mindful of the volume of your voice. Loud party noises should be avoided and end by 10 PM. Be mindful of those on the shore year you.

9. Watch your WAKE

Be aware of others especially smaller boats on the lake and watch how your wake will impact them. While 5 MPH is posted in the canal if your boat is large like a pontoon boat, you will need to go even slower. Be sure your wake does not reach the shore. Be aware of your surroundings especially on the watch for swimmers and kayaks and keep your wake low when passing them. Non-Motored vessels and swimmers have the right of way.

10. Fishing

Fishing should not come between a lake owner's dock and the shore. Boaters should always stay 10 feet from the end of owner's docks and rafts. Keep a respectful distance from the shore.

11. Jet Skiing special considerations



Jet Skiers need boating certification just like boaters. No one under 14 may operate a Jet Ski in NY State. Never come towards someone's shore or dock at a fast pace. When in the middle of the lake be extra aware of swimmers and non-motored vessels. They have the right of way. It is dangerous to them to do excessive circles. Also be aware boats pulling water skiers can not maneuver as fast as you.

12. BOAT SOBER

Never boat under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication. Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

13. Offer help

Friendliness among boaters and willingness to help one another is what make boating so special. Keep that tradition alive on LYL

14. NY State Boater & Jet Ski Certificate.

In 2025 all individuals operating a boat must have completed the NY state boater safety course. Certificates in 2022 are required for anyone 34 or younger. *Those under 14 cannot operate jet skis or another personal watercraft, those 14 and over must have a boater safety certificate.* Course can be found online and costs ~ \$29. You must have your certificate with you while boating or you can be ticketed. Under a new law, known as Brianna's Law, all motorboat operators:

- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2023.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2024.

15. NY State Boat Registration

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regulates the state boating laws in the state of New York. All vessels propelled by machinery, including gasoline, diesel and electric motors, and principally operated on New York waters must be registered and issued a New York Certificate of Registration by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Additional Tips for Paddle Board, Canoe, and Kayak Fun!

Paddle boards, canoes, and kayaks are vessels that offer people a range of calm to exhilarating fun on the water; are relatively easy to use; easy to move around; and you can launch them from shore.

With all that fun on the water comes a bit of safety to consider; according to the American Canoe Association, top causes of fatalities for paddle sports are falling overboard, capsizing, and drowning.

Help keep paddling both fun + safe and refer to these to these safety tips when planning your next paddling adventure:



1. If kayaking alone

If you are going paddling for just a few hours, let someone know where you expect to be and when you expect to return.

2. Carry in and Carry out If kayaking alone

Always remove any litter you bring with you.

3. Know Your Limits

Can you recognize water, wind, weather conditions, or when you are tired? Are you dressed correctly for your paddle adventure? Make good choices before venturing out and paddle according to your own limits.

4. Get Education

Boating education benefits skippers, passengers, and vessels alike, whatever your age. Knowledge about boating and paddle safety can reduce accidents, fatalities, and property damage. Check out this list of in-person and online sources of education today! [Click here for more information.](#)

5. Assess Conditions Continuously for Vessel Traffic, Water, and Weather

Vessel traffic, operator skill, sun, waves, wind, and temperatures can be more of a factor than one might think. Operate your vessel in a safe and responsible manner. Keep out of the way of motorboats; group paddlers best travel behind one another rather than abreast and possibly blocking the waterway. A beautiful morning on the water can quickly turn into a windy, stormy afternoon. This is why it is important to check the weather forecast before you head out on the water.

6. Leash for Paddle Board

For paddle boards there are different kinds of leashes for different water venues; additionally, a leash can keep your paddle board tethered to you and blowing away in the wind.

7. RIGHT OF WAY

While non-motored vessels have the right of way on the lake, take especial care for boats pulling water skiers. They have limited maneuverability, so give them more room.



Aquatic Nuisance Species

Non-native aquatic species (plants, fish and animals) are invading New York's waters. These pests can increase dramatically under the right conditions, displacing native species, clogging waterways, and impacting navigation and recreation.

Once introduced, they are nearly impossible to eliminate. Zebra Mussels are nuisance species that can be accidentally transported by recreational boaters when caught in propellers, intakes or attached to hulls.

To help prevent the introduction and spread of non-native species from one body of water to another, you should:

- Inspect your boat and remove aquatic plants or animals before you leave any body of water.
- Flush raw-water cooling systems and clean sea strainers before moving your boat from one body of water to another.
- Empty bait buckets and remove any plant fragments from bait wells, fishing gear, trailers, dive gear or props. Dispose on land into a garbage receptacle.
- Drain water from your motor, live wells and bilge.
- Wash your boat before putting it into a new body of water.
- Report new infestation of non-native aquatic species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



References

Ten Tips for Paddle Board, Canoe and Kayak, *Posted by Michael Wesolowski, Monday, July 11, 2016*
Updated: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

<https://www.boatingsafety.com/blogpost/1828549/341295/10-Tips-for-Paddle-Board-Canoe-and-Kayak-Fun>

New York State Boating Laws

<https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/navigation-law.aspx>

Brianna's Law, Adopted August 5, 2019

<http://www.briannaslaw.com/>

New York State Boating Certification

<https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>

Unwritten Rules of Boating, By Boatman, October 23, 2018

<https://boatingforbeginners.com/proper-boating-etiquette-the-unspoken-rules-of-the-water/#>