

Eagle Lake Boating Safety

The Eagle Lake Property Owners Inc. would like to remind all property owners that you can become a member and get involved. There are two levels of membership: Full memberships are for property owners with land that abuts or has a right of way to the lake, Associate members for anyone who does not own land on the lake but is interested in becoming involved with our cause. We value your opinions and would like to grow our membership! Please go to www.eaglelake1.org for more information and to print an application. Our website is full of great information about the lake and surrounding area and also has the best and most complete information about Milfoil in the country!

Eagle Lake has a major infestation of Milfoil. In several areas around the lake there are white buoys marking large patches of milfoil. Please STAY AWAY from these areas. When milfoil is cut by a propeller or paddle, the fragments of the plant break off and cause it to spread. We need your help to stop the spread of this plant as we work towards its removal.

Summer is here and we would like to pass along key information about safe Boat & Jet Ski / PWC usage. Below are some excerpts and information taken from the New York State Boaters Guide as they would apply to Eagle Lake. Please see www.nysparks.com for more information. This site has a list of courses in your area. You can search by county at www.nysparks.com/recreation/boating/safety-courses.aspx?cnty=&sort=1

This is the complete NYS Boaters Guide link:

<http://www.nysparks.com/recreation/boating/documents/NYSBoatersGuide.pdf>

Please make a copy of these and keep everyone in your household informed. We want to keep Eagle Lake a safe place to enjoy!

Boating Rules:

All mechanically powered boats must be currently registered in New York or in another state. A valid registration card must be carried on the boat at all times.

Speed is limited to 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of shore, dock, raft, moored boat or anchored boat (notably fisherman). All inland bodies of water in New York have a maximum 45 mph. speed limit. Any vessel towing a water skier, wake board or tube, must have on board, in the addition to the operator, an observer at least 10 years of age who will watch out for the person being towed. All towing activities are restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset.

All boats must have the following safety equipment:

NEW Cold water PFD rule : Starting Nov. 1, kayakers, canoeists and those aboard all other boats under 21 feet, must wear Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while on New York's coastal waters, lakes, rivers and other waterways. The rule will remain in effect through May 1. Violators face fines ranging from \$25 to \$100.

1. All boats including canoes, kayaks and row boats must have ONE Personal Flotation Device PFD (life jacket) PER PERSON in the boat. It must be worn by children under 12 years old while the boat is underway. The life jacket must be Type I, II or III as rated by the Coast Guard. A throw cushion does not count as a PFD.

2. One Type IV throwable cushion or life ring.

3. Motor boats over 16' in length must have visual distress signals. This can be satisfied by having day/night flares or an "SOS" flag for day use and a battery operated distress light for night use. It is noted that flares will cover the requirement but may not work if they are wet or expired. Be sure to check the dates stamped on flares. Most are only good for three years

4. Fire extinguishers are required on closed cabin boats and inboard or Inboard/Outboard boats under 26' long. Outboard powered boats of open construction under 26' are not required to carry a fire extinguisher.
5. All motor boats are required to carry an anchor and line of sufficient weight to provide safe anchorage.
6. All motor boats must have a working whistle or horn.
7. Navigation and Anchor lights must be displayed between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

Other Suggested Equipment:

Oar /Paddle, Bilge pump/ bailing bucket, First Aid kit, Boat hook, Tool kit / Spare parts, Fire Extinguisher

Jet Ski / PWC Rules:

New York State requires that everyone operating a personal watercraft (PWC) complete an approved course in boating safety or are otherwise accompanied, on board, by someone 18 years of age or older who is the holder of an approved boating safety certificate. Operator must be at least 14 years of age to use a PWC without another adult over the age of 18 who has a boating safety certificate. Certificates are required to be carried at all times when operating the PWC. All PWCs must be currently registered in New York or another state. Valid registration must be carried on the PWC at all times.

Speed is limited to 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of shore, dock, raft, moored boat or anchored boat (notably fisherman) All inland bodies of water in New York have a 45 mph. speed limit.

Operators, passengers and any person being towed behind a PWC must wear a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PFD)

Engine Cutoff - Must be functional and attached to rider

Horn / Whistle - Capable of a 2-second blast, audible for 1/2 mile

Visual Distress Flag- Must be at least 1 square foot - Fluorescent Orange

Any vessel towing a water skier, wake board or tube, must have on board, in the addition to the operator, an observer at least 10 years of age who will watch out for the person being towed. The Skier is considered a passenger and is to be counted against the maximum passenger capacity. In order to tow a someone behind a jet ski it must be rated for three people: driver, observer and skier.

Operation of a PWCs and waterskiing / tubing is restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset. Adding lights to a PWC will not allow it to be legally used at night.

Since PWCs cannot immediately stop, it is important to stay clear of other boats and swimmers.

Operators of jet skis and all other power boats should be mindful of property owners and environmentally sensitive areas. See NYS Boaters Guide or go to www.nysparks.com for more information.