

Memo: May 21, 2025

To: SVCA Board of Directors
Fr: SVCA Safety Committee

Re: Proposal to cover the costs of materials to build a personal floatation loaner rack to be installed at the Marina location.

The reasons why are many. Here are a few listed below, especially as we are heading into warmer weather and the boating season. And, state law requires PFD-life jackets for all boats such as kayaks and paddle boards.

May is water safety month.

Yori's Law ([House Bill 1750](#)) designates May 15, as Water Safety Day in *Washington*. The law promotes water safety awareness and swim education. It was established in honor of Yori Tsunoda, a 3-year-old boy who drowned in Western Washington in 2018.

Important water safety tips:

- Learn basic swimming and water safety skills. Swim lessons early and often teach children the skills needed to stay safe while in and around the water.
- **Wear a life jacket. Life jackets reduce the risk of drowning** for people of all ages and swimming abilities.
- Be aware of the dangers of cold water and currents. When the weather warms up, the water can be cold and fast-moving from melting mountain snowpacks.
- Go to a pool, it's the safest place to swim. Local health departments inspect pools, hot tubs, and splash pads regularly to ensure health and safety.
- Never swim while sick and take kids on frequent bathroom breaks. Although chlorine kills most germs within minutes, some parasites can survive more than 7 days.
- Avoid distractions when children are swimming or around water. Adults should supervise children anytime they are in or around water. Supervision requires complete attention, even if another adult or lifeguard is present.
- Avoid drinking alcohol and using cannabis when swimming or boating. Alcohol and cannabis impair judgment, balance, and coordination.

Drowning deaths were higher in recent years

Over 4,500 people drowned each year in the United States from 2020–2022. This is about 500 more drowning deaths each year compared to 2019. Groups already at higher risk saw the greatest increases in deaths, including young children and older adults of all races and ethnicities, and Black people of all ages.

Drowning deaths differed by age

- Drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages 1–4.
 - Drowning increased by 28% among children ages 1–4 in 2022 compared to 2019.
- Adults 65 years of age and older had the second highest rate of drowning.
 - Drowning increased by 19% in adults ages 65–74 in 2022 compared to 2019.

Drowning deaths differed by race and ethnicity

- American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) people had higher drowning rates than any other race and ethnic group.
 - Although drowning did not increase among AIAN people during 2020–2022, rates in this group remained higher than those of any other race or ethnicity.
- Black people have the second highest drowning rates.
 - In 2021, drowning increased 28% among Black people compared to 2019.

40 million adults do not know how to swim

Basic swimming and water safety skills training is a proven, effective way to prevent drowning. Some groups of people are less likely to report taking swimming lessons.

- More than 1 in 3 Black adults (37%) reported not knowing how to swim compared to 15% of all adults.
- About 2 in 3 Black adults (63%) reported never taking a swimming lesson.
- About 3 in 4 Hispanic adults (72%) reported never taking a swimming lesson.

2025 BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

WEAR IT
A program of the National Safe Boating Council

2025 Boating Safety Calendar

Jan Various Boat Shows
Feb Various Boat Shows
Apr 6 #406Day
Apr 14-17 International Boating & Water Safety Summit
May National Water Safety Month
May 16 Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day
May 17-23 National Safe Boating Week
May 17 Kids to Parks Day
May 22 National Maritime Day
May 24-26 Memorial Day Weekend
Jun National Safety Month
Jun 7-15 National Fishing and Boating Week
June 15 National Marina Day
Jun 18 National Go Fishing Day
June 22 Summer Sailstice
Jul Sun Safe Boating Month
Jul 4 Independence Day
Jul 4-6 Operation Dry Water
Sep National Hunting and Fishing Month
Sep 1 Labor Day
Sep 25 World Maritime Day
Sep 28 National Hunting and Fishing Day
Oct Fall Cleanup Storing Boat and Equipment
Nov Child Safety Protection Month
Dec Holiday Parade of Boats
 (check local community calendars)

safeboatingcampaign.com

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Because the most heavily used launch being at the Marina, the Safety Committee requests funds not to exceed \$752.51 be approved to purchase materials for the purpose of building a loaner rack for personal flotation devices of various sizes. The local Boy Scout Troop has offered to build the rack if we purchase the materials and supplies needed (receipts will be required for reimbursement). The personal flotation devices will be donated, by individuals and

by the state of Washington. To be clear, the cost of the personal floatation devices will be provided at no charge to Sudden Valley Community Association. The value of these personal floatation devices is \$xxx.xx. What if the personal floatation devices are lost? The state replaces them at no charge. The labor is of undetermined value, but also provides a worthwhile and ongoing relationship with the local scout troop for mutually beneficial projects.

The display will look something like this one at Bloedel Donovan Park.



Motion: to request funds not to exceed \$751.52 for materials needed to build a loaner rack for personal floatation devices(aka life jackets) to be installed at Marina Park. The display rack will be built in partnership with the local Boy Scout Troop. An estimated supply list is attached below.

