

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between the

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

and the

United States Power Squadrons®

This memorandum is executed between the **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**; the uniformed volunteer civilian component of the **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD** and the **UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS**, a private boating organization.

A. PREAMBLE AND INTRODUCTION:

The *United States Coast Guard Auxiliary* (USCGAUX), known as *America's Volunteer Lifesavers™* is the uniformed volunteer civilian component of the *United States Coast Guard* (USCG). Its nearly 33,000 members provide support to USCG in operations, homeland security, marine safety and environmental protection, and the promotion of *recreational boating safety* (RBS). USCGAUX promotes RBS by teaching public education (PE) courses in boating safety to the boating public, conducting RBS Visitations at marine retailers and other commercial outlets that provide contact with the recreational boaters, and performing *Vessel Safety Checks* (VSCs) on recreational boats and other vessels. The Auxiliary also directs the overall *Vessel Safety Check Program* (VSCP) and the *RBS Visitation Program* (RBSVP) as the Executive Agent of USCG. The USCGAUX supports Coast Guard Homeland Security missions in *Marine Domain Awareness* (MDA) and acts as the Executive Agent for the *Waterway Watch Program*. It supports other U. S. and state government agencies such as the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA) through such activities as the cooperative marine chart up-dating, safety patrols, aids to navigation verification, boating safety training, etc. USCGAUX also maintains formal and informal links with states and non-governmental organizations (NGO) with interests in RBS and related programs.

The *United States Power Squadrons®* (USPS) is a private boating organization, known as *America's Boating Club™*, with an interest in public service and recreational boating safety, chart updating, and membership training focus. Founded in 1914, its nearly 56,000 members teach public education courses in boating safety, conduct *Vessel Safety Checks*, perform cooperative marine chart updating support to NOAA, and provide educational opportunities for its members. USPS also maintains links with the USCG, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, National Safe Boating Council, US Army Corps of Engineers, the individual state, and the Sea Scouts and with NGOs with interests in RBS.

USCGAUX and USPS have many similarities in terms of values, missions and goals. In recent years, links between these two organizations have become stronger and more numerous. For example, many citizens are members of both organizations. Senior leadership of both organizations regularly attend each other's national meetings. USPS is a partner in the *Vessel Safety Check Program* (VSCP) and recently signed an agreement to participate in the *RBS Visitation Program* (RBSVP). USPS and USCGAUX are joint developers of *America's Boating CourseSM* (ABC), which is offered to the public in a variety of formats. Since this partnering activity is likely to grow through a continued series of individual cooperative projects, both organizations believe; at it is timely and appropriate to execute a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* to formalize our partnering relationship.

B. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to define and establish procedures and practices for cooperation between the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons to enhance their common goals of promoting boating safety and protecting the marine interests of the citizens of the United States of America.

C. AREAS OF COOPERATION:

Working within the policy and guidelines of their respective organizations, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons agree to:

1. Continue to provide senior leadership attendance at each other's national meetings and district meetings to discuss topics of mutual interest and, as appropriate, to develop joint programs.
2. Be alert for opportunities to partner in the development of public boating safety educational materials.
3. Maintain a close and harmonious relationship between both organizations and their members in performing the Vessel Safety Check and Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Programs.
4. Consult on a variety of legislative and regulatory initiatives and mandates, such as mandatory boating safety education, effective utilization of distance learning in boating safety education, regulations concerning the mandatory wearing of personal flotation devices, (PFDs), especially by children, and to discover and develop opportunities where alignment exists and the two organizations can combine efforts to support appropriate public policy and boating safety initiatives.
5. Foster joint membership between the two organizations by encouraging members to join the other organization to promote a seamless relationship between both organizations.
6. Encourage the free exchange of information, technologies and other materials to the benefit of both organizations on their related activities through cooperative visits or joint meetings at all levels of their organizations.
7. This MOU does not obligate either USPS or USCGAUX to any joint action. Either and/or both organizations may undertake and pursue operations, activities and objectives without the consent or involvement of the other except as mutually provided for in other agreements related to specific subjects and programs.

D. APPLICATION:

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall modify or substitute for applicable organizational regulations and will not create an obligation for either participant or the USCG to allocate funds, resources, or personnel to any activities hereunder. Further, either party may terminate this MOU upon 30 days written notice.

Agreed to this 7th day of January 2006.

Original signed as follows (original on file at USPS HQ, Raleigh, NC):

Gene M. Seibert
National Commodore
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

G. Leslie Johnson
Chief Commander
United States Power Squadrons