The boating lowdown on

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDS

As a recreational boater who shares the water with many other watercraft, there are things to know about safety, right-of-way, legal operation and personal responsibility when operating a Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP).

Required Equipment

Sound-producing device

Waterway Access Permit on SUPs 10 feet or longer

Appropriate-sized life jacket

If you are not proficient at operating your SUP, stay close to shore. SUPs are unstable, not very visible, and provide little protection from boat wakes, wind, and other environmental challenges.

Remember that public waterways are like busy roads, with many different types of traffic. Entering the traffic stream with larger, faster boats is like taking a hike on a major highway and requires extreme caution. Each operator is responsible for avoiding collisions and maintaining a proper lookout. Avoid boating in the path of larger vessels with limited maneuverability or visibility.

Be especially careful paddling on:

- Large, open waters where winds can quickly create large waves or swells. Always be aware of the wind. In these conditions, a leash may be desired.
- Moving water where currents, rocks, debris and other obstructions create challenges for SUP operators. Wear a life jacket. The wrong leash can be fatal; see back for appropriate type.

Please enjoy this healthy, exciting activity, but do so safely and with respect for the other waterway users who are enjoying the water with you.

ACA recommendations for

LIFE JACKETS & LEASHES

Remember: In most situations, a SUP is considered a boat and you are legally required to carry a life jacket... but it's better to wear it! All life jackets must be US Coast Guard approved, in good, servicable condition and properly fitted and for the right activity.

INHERENTLY BUOYANT LIFE JACKET

- Wear on moving and whitewater, can wear on flat water

INFLATABLE BELT PACK

- Wear on flat water
- Read label - most need to be worn in front

BODY-MOUNTED LEASH

- Use on moving and whitewater
- Wear leash around your waist
- Must be reachable by both hands and a quick-release

COILED LEASH

- Use on flat water, some open water
- Wear leash just above the ankle or around the calf, below the knee
- Wear in tidal areas or other bodies of water where there is no risk of entanglement in obstructions

STRAIGHT LEASH

- Use for ocean surf zone