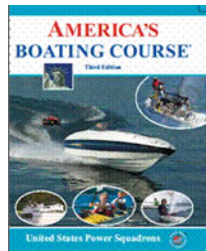


[America's Boating Course - 3rd Edition](#)



ABC3 is our primary civic effort toward public instruction in the fundamentals of safe boating. Both short (8-hour) and long (12-hour) formats are designed to familiarize the student with the

fundamentals of safe boating and qualify for certification in most states that require boating education before operating a watercraft.

Subjects include:

- Boat handling under normal conditions
- Adverse conditions and emergencies
- Types of boats and boating terminology
- Required and recommended equipment
- Boating regulations and navigation rules
- Lines and knots
- Charts and aids to navigation (in 12-hour format only)
- Piloting techniques (in 12-hour format only)
- Marine radiotelephone usage
- Trailer boating

Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete **ABC3**.

ABC3 can be taken on the Internet. Your state specific boating laws are available online from your state's website. For your state boating certificate, contact a squadron in your area to arrange a state specific test. This boating safety course is fun and very thorough.



These seminars are available now.

- [Advanced Powerboat Handling](#)
- [Anchoring](#)
- [Basic Coastal Navigation](#)
- [Boat Handling under Power](#)
- [Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes](#)
- [How to Use a Chart](#)
- [Hurricanes and Boats](#)
- [Knots, Bends and Hitches](#)
- [Marine RADAR](#)
- [Mariner's Compass](#)
- [Mastering the Rules of the Road](#)
- [Onboard Weather Forecasting](#)
- [Paddle Smart](#)
- [Partner in Command](#)
- [Sail Trim and Rig Tuning](#)
- [Trailer Your Boat](#)
- [Using GPS](#)
- [Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio](#)

Several more seminars are nearing completion and will be available soon.

- [Knots for Mariners](#)
- [Onboard Emergencies](#)
- [Using Digital Charts](#)
- [Heavy Weather Sailing](#)

Check the district web page to find out about updated class listings in your area.

www.uspsd20.org



District 20

A Unit of



USPS is proud to have served the public and numerous governmental agencies for 97 years.

Vision
Safe, Responsible, & Fun Recreational Boating



"Illumination"

built by Land of Lincoln Power Squadron



What is USPS®?

The **United States Power Squadrons** (USPS) is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Our members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. We enjoy participating with fellow members on the water and in the classroom. USPS has some 50,000 members organized into 450 squadrons across the country and in several US territories. District 20 oversees the activities of 18 squadrons in Illinois, southeastern Wisconsin, western Indiana and eastern Iowa.

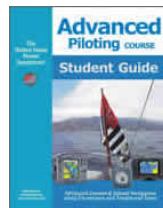
United States Power Squadrons provides many educational opportunities to both the boating public and to its members. One of the key concepts of the United States Power Squadrons is the self-education of its members, meaning that successful students go on to teach other students to perpetuate boating knowledge. USPS instructors who teach public courses are also certified regarding their ability to teach and use modern instructional methods. Many of the courses offer classroom and on-the-water instruction.



USPS University Educational Opportunities

USPS University Educational opportunities are available through two segments, Advanced Grades and Elective Courses. Learn how to [become a member](#) to take courses at a discount.

Advanced Grades



The Advanced Grades are a series of in-depth coastal and offshore navigational courses using a combination of electronic and paper charting methods.

- *Seamanship*
- *Piloting*
- *Advanced Piloting*
- *Junior Navigation*
- *Navigation*

Elective Courses



A wide discipline of Elective Courses that cover related boating topics other than navigation are also offered as part of the instructed course curriculum.

- *Cruise Planning*
- *Engine Maintenance*
- *Instructor Development*
- *Marine Electrical Systems*
- *Marine Communications Systems*
- *Sail*
- *Weather*

USPS University – Seminar Series

USPS University is here with new programs targeted to a range of boaters and types of boating. The hallmark of this concept is the *Seminar Series*. These short seminars are targeted to specific topics and needs with a two-hour format and valuable take-away guides. Some seminars provide credits toward the ***Boat Operator Certification*** program, a three level program including inland, coastal, and offshore boating which is available to USPS members.