

## Kids N Water Class

As the kids will be out of school shortly it is time to really begin thinking about water safety when the family is on or around the water. You can never be too safe when boating or swimming or just playing on the river.

Flotilla 3-10 of the USCG Auxiliary has just completed another year of teaching boating and water safety to the Kindergarten students of the Northern Neck. This year they taught just over 600 students the importance of wearing a life jacket, how to wear a life jacket, how to be safe in a boat, swimming with a buddy and what to do in case of an emergency while boating along with other topics about boating and water safety. The students, along with their teachers, got a brief lesson that just may save their lives on the water.

Wearing a life jacket while in a boat is a simple thing to do and it could save your life as well. The old cumbersome life jackets are a thing of the past. The new jackets, especially the inflatable ones, are comfortable to wear, easy to store and inexpensive. Are the ones you currently own in good shape? When you are boating are they accessible, at least? A life jacket can do no one any good if it is stored in a locker when it is needed. Have you considered new ones for your boat? Please do not say they are too expensive because there is only one response to that statement. "What is your life or the life of a loved one worth?"

Flotilla 3-10 will be happy to inspect your boat for the proper equipment, documentation, etc. That extra set of eyes just may find a problem that can be corrected before it develops into something major. The inspection is free and when passed the decal will be issued to the boat. If you want an inspection please contact Ed Gray at 804-854-1309.

Flotilla 3-10 enjoys teaching the kids about water safety but they have a hidden agenda to the class. They want your student to come home and ask his parent or grandparent or friend "Why do I need to wear a life jacket and you don't?" When he/she does that we have actually taught another layer of boating and water safety.

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