

Commander Seamoor of the Intergalactic Water Safety Patrol

Ranger: Hello girls and boys. Thank you for inviting me to your school. My name is Ranger _____. I am a Park Ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I work at Rend Lake. How many of you have ever visited Rend Lake? Great! My job as a Park Ranger is to help people and also I make sure that all the rules are followed. I want people to be safe when they visit Rend Lake so they won't get hurt or won't hurt anyone else.

I had an experience this past summer that I don't know whether I should share it with you or not because some people say I was dreaming. But I don't think I was. You tell me what you think.

It all began one clear night when Ranger Smith and I were out patrolling. We had just finished locking the gates at the South Sandusky Beach when all of a sudden we saw a fiery ball come streaking across the sky. We looked up just in time to see it splash into the middle of Rend Lake. We hurried to the marina, put on our life jackets and crawled into the patrol boat so we could get a closer look. I expected to see a helicopter or an airplane wreck. But, there it was – here comes the weird part – instead of an airplane it was a tiny space ship. As we got closer the door suddenly SPRANG open and out jumped a funny little creature. He looked kind of like a little purple dragon with horns on his head, and webbed feet and hands. Then he spoke to me. I was shocked. But he was really nice. I would like for you to meet him ---

Seamoor: Hi Boys and girls.

Ranger: Boys and girls I would like for you to meet Commander Seamoor of the Intergalactic Water Safety Patrol. He comes to us from the planet Floatalong.

Seamoor: Hi Boys and Girls. I am so glad to be here.

Ranger: Commander Seamoor's planet is located far away, near the little dipper. What I found interesting is that his planet is completely covered in water. Planet FloatALong has no dry land? Wow! Commander, I'll bet that it is dangerous for the people to live there.

Seamoor: There are some simple rules about being safe around water that my people learn when they are just babies. It is my job as a member of the IWSP to go to other planets and make sure that everyone else knows these rules too, so they can be WATER WISE like we are.

Ranger: That is too cool Commander Seamoor. He says that he goes to other planets and teaches people to be safe around the water. That is a very important job. Have you come to help us understand how to be Water Wise?

Seamoor: Yes I have. I have some great stories to share with you from around the galaxy. But I will need some help. Can you select a helper?

(Ranger chooses 1 students from the audience to help)

Ranger: On this board we have pictures of the planets that Commander Seamoor has been to. He would like to share one story from each planet to test our knowledge of water safety. Please pick a planet from the board. (Child picks one planet from the display board and hands it to the Ranger. Ranger turns it over and on the back is a water safety story.) I will read the story and it will be your job to see if you can match up the water safety rule that the alien broke. The reason he/she got into trouble.

Planet Sinkor – Glurp lives on Planet Sinkor. She never learned to swim. She was afraid of water. Her favorite food is called the choco reed. The problem is that the Choco reed only grows near rivers, lakes and oceans. One day when she was picking Choco Reed she fell into the water. She got water in her nose and mouth and couldn't yell for help. She was very lucky a grownup saw her struggling and threw her a rope. Glurp didn't understand the most important water safety rule. Can you find which rule would help her out and put it near her on the board. **(Parent or Adult watch)**

Planet Gulp a Lot – Gandor lives on the planet Gulp-a-lot. He is very independent and likes to do everything **ALONE**. He plays alone, he skates alone, he even swims alone. One day Gandor went swimming alone and failed to come back home when he was supposed to. The people in his village searched for days and finally found Gandor holding on to a floating log in the middle of the lake. What important safety rule would have helped Gandor stay safe in the water?

(Never Swim Alone)

Planet Divon – Squeegie **(Look Before You Leap)**

Planet Vulcon – Flo **(Only Swim in Safe Area)**

Ranger: Does it look like we have all the safety rules right? (go over the rules again briefly as you check) What do you think Commander? Looks like we are on the right track to learning how to be Water Wise aren't we.

Seamoor: That's right. Great job, kids.

Ranger: Hey, What's this? (picking up the pretend ray gun)

Seamoor: Put that down. **THAT IS NOT A TOY!** It's a particle disintegrator.

Ranger: Sorry, Commander, but you have some really cool gadgets here. What's this you're wearing? Is this some kind of space age shirt or something?

Seamoor: This is my device for displacing the **atomic structure of hydrogen and oxygen molecules resulting in a centrifugal lifting force proportional to my body weight.**

Ranger: Wow! That is pretty impressive. It looks very similar to what we have here on Earth. But here on Earth we call them Life Jackets. Some people call them PFDs, Personal Floatation Device. It keeps us floating when we are in the water.

Seamoor: WE learn early in our life that we must wear these when we are near the water. I like that term PFD. Can I use that term when I visit the next planet?

Ranger: Sure. Anything to help the Intergalactic Water Safety Patrol. We say – Wear it- It Floats – You don't!

Seamoor; May I see some examples of the PFD's you have on EARTH?

Ranger; Ok. But I will need some help on this one. Lets get some helpers to try these on. Seamoor the reason that we call it a PFD is because it is a PERSONAL Floatation Device. It is made just for the person wearing it. That means that it must fit right or it isn't considered a PFD. Let me show you.

Activity: Pick 4 kids to help. Hand each student one life jacket and tell them to put it on. Make sure to select jacket that is too big, one that is too small and one that is just right. One is not a life jacket at all. Need to select you students so that you have a student big enough to wear the big one and small enough to wear the small one so you can switch them at the end and everyone be correct. Point out that the blow up toys might keep you floating for a little while but they can't be trusted to save your life. What if they lose all the air in them? You may find yourself in big trouble. The throw cushion is to be hugged for life. Do not put it on your back or your face will go straight into the water.

Ranger: We try to make sure that everyone who needs a life jacket has one available. We loan PFD's out free of charge to anyone who wants to borrow one for a day. All they have to do is come by the Visitor Center and pick it up. When they are done boating they just bring it back. There really isn't any reason for a kid to be on the lake without a PFD on. Besides, here in Illinois, it is the law that anyone under the age of 13 has to be wearing a PFD anytime that they are in a boat.

Ranger: Commander Seamoor. I know that the Intergalactic Water Safety Patrol teaches water safety throughout the universe, but don't you also help rescue people who have accidents around the water, too?

Seamoor: We sure do. That's our specialty.

Ranger: Is there anything you can teach us about that?

Seamoor: Of course, this is very important. Never pretend you are drowning – even if you think it is funny.

Ranger: Even if you are just clowning around and playing in the water?

Seamoor: That's right. It is never a funny joke.

Ranger: I think I understand. If you are always playing like you are drowning others won't be able to tell if you really **are** in trouble in the water will they?

Seamoor: That's right and it could be very bad.

Ranger: Yes, it could be. I learned in Ranger training how to recognize a drowning person. Many times you won't think a person is in trouble, they just slip below the water and disappear. But sometimes a drowning person will have a very distressed look on their face, have their head thrown back and be thrashing around in the water and they won't be yelling for help like you see on TV. This is because they probably have swallowed some water and it is blocking their airway. What do you recommend if someone is really drowning Seamoor.

Seamoor: I remember REACH, THROW, ROW and GO for Help.

Ranger: I think that is a really catchy saying. **Reach Throw Row and Go** for help! Let's go over that again. **Reach, Throw, Row and Go for help.** I'll bet we can get some of the kids to help us see how that works. Pick out 6 students.

Activity: Form two teams of three kids each. Have the first person stand in the circle. They may not move from that circle until their task has been accomplished. The others must stand back so the first person can do their task. They are to work as a team to save all the aliens. The first team that saves the alien wins! We are going to teach you what the saying REACH, THROW, ROW, and GO means by having you save the aliens using these methods.

First person: must save the **five** drowning aliens by reaching with some type of reach item and bringing them in. They may reach with **any** of the reach items seen on the stage and may bring them in, in any manner they can. Getting them to the shore is their goal. Once they get the five aliens to shore they move on to the next person.

Second person: Will have to throw the life ring to the drowning aliens. (Cones) Your goal is to get the life ring over the top of the drowning alien where they can hang on to it and you can pull them to shore. You may move on to the next person as soon as you **put the life ring over the top of the cone one time** or you may **hit the alien (cone) 5 times with the life ring.**

Third person: Must row out to the alien on the boat (skateboard) load them onto the boat (skate board) and row back to the shore with them. As soon as they return to shore the next person may go.

Forth person: Must **GO for Help.** The first team to save all their aliens and report the trouble to the Ranger wins.

Ranger: In real life you could go to any adult or if a cell phone or pay phone is available it is important to call 911 to get help on the way. When you call you should make sure you know where you are, stay calm and tell them exactly what is going on. Help will be on the way. Would you ever go out after another person that is drowning? Only if you are a trained Life Guard. If you aren't trained – Don't Go. Go for help instead.

Pick a winner to the activity. Give all volunteer a sticker.

Ranger: Commander you know I am feeling pretty good about these kids knowledge of water safety now. I can see that staying safe in the water is simple if you follow the rules.

Seamoor: That's my message for the people of the galaxy.

Ranger: Speaking of the people of the galaxy, I guess you're anxious to be on your way to visit other planets.

Seamoor: I really should be going. You have been a great group of Earthlings and you learn really fast.

Ranger: We'll miss you Commander Seamoor. Will you be back soon?

Seamoor: I'm never far away.

Ranger: WE will be watching for you Seamoor. I know that when I see a star twinkle in the night sky that you have just landed on another planet and will be teaching them how to be Water Wise too. See you later Commander Seamoor. And kids I will be watching for you at Rend Lake. I hope that you come to visit us and will be using what you have learned today when you are around the water. Thanks so much for listening to my story. But, tell me – do you believe that it really happened or do **you** think I was dreaming? Oh well, I'd better get back to work now. Remember, ALWAYS BE WATER WISE! See you at Rend Lake!