

Coast Guard Auxiliary

The U.S. Coast Guard is spread as thin as the US Army Corps of Engineers and their funds are not as plentiful as they once were. To assist the USCG with their missions, they have authorized Coast Guard Flotilla Auxiliaries. These flotillas, without enforcement authority, have been extremely helpful on many rivers and lakes around this nation.

They can be your “eyes and ears” on the lake as visitation increases, help with cleanups, boating safety educational programs, rescue efforts and maintain better water radio communications. Members of the flotilla can watch for lake polluting, illegal netting, wildlife poaching along the shoreline and illegal tree cutting.

During your special events they can provide assistance at fishing tournaments and accomplish a myriad of tasks with your “Blessing of the Boats” ceremony.

When you need people to help, the flotilla teammates will prove to be an invaluable, dependable resource.

This concept can work both ways. For example, the Auxiliary can provide you with an excellent means to promote water safety at your lake while you also help them. How does this work? Easy. A ranger could volunteer to serve as a guest speaker/instructor for one session of the Auxiliary’s five-part Basic Seamanship Class. The ranger could discuss some topic in which the Corps of Engineers has particular expertise, such as locks and dams. Or, the ranger could present rules and regulations while boating at that lake or focus on some local problem such as boating in a restricted area. The Auxiliary is always eager to have someone help with their teaching and the students love the variety of different instructors. It’s a great way to get new boaters started off right.

For information about the nearest Coast Guard Auxiliary in your area check website <http://nws.cgaux.org>.

Since you are “joining” the U.S. Coast Guard, it’s time to learn their motto: “Semper Paratus” (Always Prepared). Anchors way, “sailor.”