

# Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Program



Thank you for hosting a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop!

Non-native species have been hitchhiking their way into Wisconsin for decades. By water, boat, and land, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, invasive organisms have been moving into inland waters. Aquatic invasive species can threaten the diversity and abundance of native species as well as alter ecosystems and affect aquaculture and recreational activities. As boaters travel throughout Wisconsin, invasives can tag along and create havoc in Wisconsin's water bodies. With so many lakes and so few state resources, it only makes sense to encourage volunteers to monitor and educate boaters about invasive species.

These documents are designed to assist you with recruiting volunteers into the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program through a training workshop. Included in these files, you will find sample letters, news releases, and other materials to help you get the word out and interest participants. The documents also contain organizational tips and guidelines to help you plan your workshop. Suggestions on the facility arrangement, registration procedures, and confirmation letters help simplify the planning process. The sample agenda outlines the workshop content, speaker suggestions, and activities that are appropriate for the training.

Workshop participants will not need to bring any materials with them. While there is no cost to attend the workshop, participants have the opportunity to receive a handbook and resource kit for a \$25 fee. These materials can be delivered before the workshop or are transported on the day of the workshop.

To assess the impact of the volunteer watercraft inspection program, you are requested to have the participants complete a workshop evaluation form. As a host, you are also asked to send in your workshop summary in order to let us know how the workshop went and how to improve the program.

Lastly, to make this workshop a success, feel free to change any information to tailor it to your area. It is the goal of this program to assist you in making your workshop beneficial for your area. Not all information included in this packet is relevant to all parts of the state.

If you need assistance, please give us a call, and we will be glad to help. Best of luck in preparing volunteers to organize and conduct a boater education program in your community!

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