

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Recruiting Tips



Attending a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop provides you with all the basic skills you need to organize a volunteer watercraft inspection program. However, all that information can be overwhelming! The Clean Boats, Clean Waters handbook acts as a resource for in-depth information on specific watercraft inspection questions, but may not be appropriate to distribute to volunteers just working a few hours at the boat landing. “Recruiting Tips” is a quick outline of topics you need to include when organizing a training session. It is not necessary to repeat the same three-hour workshop. Instead, one hour to one and a half hours should be adequate to train volunteers. No matter the length of your training session, all volunteer programs need to address the four basic volunteer duties:

- Inform and educate boaters
- Perform watercraft inspections
- Collect and report watercraft data
- Report any suspect specimens

To prepare your volunteer team for the diversity of recreational equipment launching at the landing, consider using the DVD “Understanding Invasive Intruders”. These media are available from UW-Extension Lakes (715-346-2116). Also, consider viewing the volunteer list posted on the CBCW website: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW. All of these folks have attended a CBCW workshop and many are actively performing watercraft inspections in their community. They are great resources for you to use when developing your volunteer team.

When organizing your training, refer to Section 6 of the handbook. It contains lots of helpful information about getting your volunteers started. The following questions provide a framework for communicating the program:

What is Clean Boats, Clean Waters?

- Why are they performing watercraft inspections?
- What are the volunteer duties? Are there any safety precautions?

How Do We Organize?

- Who is the coordinator or scheduler?
- What are their hours and who do they call if they cannot make their shift?
- What materials do they need and where do they pick them up?
- Whom do they contact in emergency?
- What should they wear while at the landings?

Hands-on Training

- Consider bringing pictures of invasive plants and animals or, if possible, preserved samples.
- What should they say to the boater? Discuss boat inspection procedure and review boat-landing script. Consider bringing a boat and trailer.
- How they handle a violation? Whom do they contact? Review the violation form and procedures.
- What information do they need to collect and where do they return the information?