

Age Restrictions

- No person under the age of 10 years may operate a motorboat.
- No person under 12 may operate a personal watercraft (PWC).
- Persons at least 10 years of age but less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat (except PWC) if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by the parent or guardian.
- Persons at least 12 but less than 16 years of age may operate a motorboat (except PWC) only if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or by a person 18 years or older designated by the parent or guardian or if they have successfully completed a Department of Natural Resources prescribed Boating Safety Course and possess a safety certificate issued by the Department or another state.
- No person under the age of 16 may rent a personal watercraft.
- Persons at least 12 but less than 16 years of age may operate a personal watercraft if they have successfully completed a DNR prescribed Boating Safety Course and possess a safety certificate issued by the Department or another state. **Parental accompaniment may not be substituted for possession of a valid DNR safety certificate.**
- Parents or guardians are punishable by law for knowingly allowing unauthorized persons to operate a motorboat.

Note: "Accompanied," for the purposes of these regulations, means "aboard the same boat."