

Spring is Boat Inspection Season

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Now that spring is upon us, it is a great time to turn your attention to your boat in preparation for a safe boating season. You should plan to get a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) from a qualified vessel examiner. America's Boating Club®, the Pamlico Sail and Power Squadron, is proud once again in 2024 to provide curtesy VSC's to interested parties. In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary also performs VSC inspections locally. Please see the information below for important contact information.

Once your vessel has been determined to carry the appropriate and operational safety equipment, you will be presented with a 2024 VSC decal that may be displayed on your boat as proof that you take safety seriously. This decal effectively informs all your passengers, friends, family members and any law enforcement who may board your boat that you have taken care to prioritize the safety of everyone and everything on your vessel. Placed prominently on your boat, a VSC decal offers no guarantee that you will not be boarded, but may serve to reassure law enforcement that you have taken the step to engage boating safety experts to help ensure your safety on the water. Earning a VSC decal may also qualify you for a boating insurance discount. In addition, completing the VSC process will provide peace of mind that you have all the safety equipment on board to handle any emergency while reminding you where your safety gear is located.

It should be noted that if you do not pass the VSC, you won't be fined, penalized, or reported to any agency or authority. You may think of your vessel examiner as your knowledgeable ally dedicated to your safety on the water. He or she will review and clarify federal, state and local boating safety and environmental regulations, while double checking locations and expiration dates associated with all of your safety and fire suppression gear.

The average inspection takes around 15 minutes and covers:

- registration
- life jackets
- visual distress signals
- fire extinguishers
- ventilation
- backfire flame arrestor
- horn
- navigation lights
- pollution placard
- trash placard/plan
- marine sanitation device
- navigation rules
- state and local requirements
- overall vessel condition

So go ahead, reach out to your nearest vessel examiner and get set for a safe and enjoyable summer on the water. Your local contact information for an inspection is:

- America's Boating Club®, Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron, email Mike at VSC@pspsnc.com for an appointment.
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, enter a request using this link: https://wow.uscgaux.info/i_want_a_vsc/index.php

This article is given courtesy of your local America's Boating Club of the Pamlico a great resource to help you increase your knowledge, navigation skill building and safety. We invite you to our website,

<https://www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org>