



Sarasota Police Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boating Safety Event Set for Saturday, May 24, 2014

SARASOTA, Fla. – May 21, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

On **Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.**, the Sarasota Police Department and Civilian Volunteer Marine Program will team up with United States Coast Guard Flotilla 84, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Longboat Key Police Department and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for an Interagency Boating Safety Inspection Day at **Centennial Park, 1059 N. Tamiami Trail (known as the 10th Street Boat Ramp)** in Sarasota.

Target has generously donated children's life jackets for the event. Officers will be handing out educational material to boat owners and there will be coloring books and other material for children.

"According to the United States Coast Guard, each year, hundreds of lives are lost, thousands are injured and millions of dollars in property damage happens because of preventable recreational boating accidents on our waterways. The Sarasota Police Department wants everyone to have a safe boating season," said Lt. Kevin Stiff, Patrol Division.

Families enjoying the Memorial Day weekend may head out for a day on a boat that has seen very little use during the winter. In the excitement of the holiday weekend, safety equipment checks are often overlooked. Families may later find themselves without the necessary equipment in an emergency or be upset when they are cited for violations for local law enforcement.

As boats make their way to the 10th Street Boat Ramp, officers will perform safety inspections and answer any questions. Boats in full compliance will be given a 2014 Multi-Agency sticker that can be displayed while on the water.

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www.instagram.com/SarasotaPoliceDept | www.youtube.com/SarasotaPoliceDept