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Contact the Subcommittee or subscribe to the eNewsletter

CORVALLIS TEEN SAVES A LIFE JUST MONTHS AFTER COMPLETING CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING

On Sept. 18, 2019, 15-year-old Luka Schaefer was startled from a routine family car ride through Corvallis, Oregon to see a man's body splayed across a sidewalk.

The man had collapsed face-up in front of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and another man was flailing about, frantically but ineffectively, trying to revive him. Schaefer reacted immediately: "We need to stop!"

The man's face was purple from lack of oxygen, a sign that his heart had stopped beating.

Schaefer was attuned to the signs of distress, because three months prior, he had completed first aid and CPR training in order to be a lifeguard at a Boy Scout summer camp.

Faced with this emergency, he knew what he had to do. "I went into a fight-or-flight mode and started 'hammering away' at his chest," he said.

The training that Luka Schaefer received from his Red Cross-trained teacher enabled him to respond effectively in seconds. Although he did not need to use this training at the camp, it was vital on that autumn day when preparation was all that was keeping a man alive. That training kept Schaefer on track.

When the paramedics did arrive, about ten minutes later, they took over the treatment for the collapsed man, who revived and was transported to the hospital for further care.

The chief paramedic commended Schaefer for his action. With pride, Monique Schaefer said, "That firefighter told me that Luka had done an awesome job and kept him alive!"

In a moment of personal reflection, he added, "I'm probably going to be a very different person, not only because I saved a person's life, but because I didn't have to watch somebody die."

Looking forward, Schaefer offers advice to everyone. "I would encourage other people to get their CPR training," he said. "Not only was it a lot of fun at the time, but it was also very, very useful."

Because of the actions by Luka Schaefer that September day in September, his CPR instructor Ron Lamie nominated him to receive the Red Cross Lifesaving Certificate of Merit award.

This award, presented to Luka on Aug. 6, 2020, is given to individuals who have saved or sustained life by using skills and knowledge learned in a Red Cross Health and Safety Services class.

"When I heard that Luka had used the skills he learned from the class to help save a person's life, I felt extremely proud of him," Lamie said.

Learning CPR only takes a few hours. But, those hours may have a huge consequence, as Lamie said, "You never know when you might be the person that can make a difference in another person's life."

You can prepare to make a huge difference in someone's life, sign up today for CPR training! To find Red Cross CPR and first aid classes near you, go to www.redcross.org.



EXCITING PROGRAMS AT THE SEA BASE HELP DEVELOP AND PROTECT CORAL REEFS

Starting this summer Sea Base will be assisting Coral Reef Foundation with their coral nursery and out planting of corals. We will have two crews of participants a week spending a day in the coral nursery learning how the corals are grown and cleaning the corals in the nursery. The next day they will spend two dives planting corals from the nursery on Alligator Reef and Cheeca Rocks.



This spring we started our Dive Against Debris project as a part of the Scuba Adventure and Scuba Live Aboard programs. Last year Sea Base worked to obtain permitting to collect trash and debris for the sanctuary and protected reefs of the keys. This permitting was granted by NOAA and FWC (Florida Wildlife Commission). To date this year we have brought up over 250 pounds of trash with 123 divers participating. After returning home one crew collected trash from upper Galveston Bay to complete their SCENE Award. See photo below:



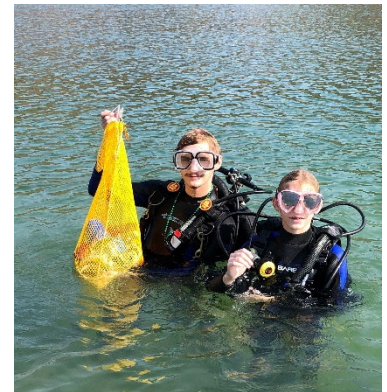
SUMMER OF SERVICE SCUBA CLEAN-UP IN ARIZONA

No excuses necessary for the Sea Scouts in Lake Havasu City, Arizona from starting their Summer of Service. This little Ship in the desert, conducted an underwater cleanup of the local resort docks with their charter organization, Lake Havasu Divers Association, this week. Nine scuba divers, two snorkelers and surface support, pulled out over 200 pounds of trash, including sunglasses, golf balls, a baby stroller, a folding chair, beer cans, red solo cups, street cones, plastic water bottles and even a fire extinguisher.



Divers spent over six hours underwater after school. The water temperature is already warming up to 66 degrees and air temperature 90 degrees. Mohave County Sheriff Dept. Marine Patrol provided top side security, keeping everyone safe.

Lake Havasu is part of the Colorado River, a federal waterway that provides water to Phoenix, Tucson, AZ, Los Angeles and San Diego, California. Ship 450 continues to be good stewards of our environment by keeping our water system clean. Our Ship provides scouts with the opportunity to learn to scuba dive to help with our underwater projects. We also help with research and cleanups for Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Game and Fish. #summerofservice.





United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. COAST GUARD ANNOUNCES NEW LAW REQUIRING USE OF ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCHES

U.S. Coast Guard sent this bulletin at 03/17/2021 01:18 PM EDT

WASHINGTON -- Operators of recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length will be required to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) and associated ECOS link (ECOSL) as of April 1, 2021, as the U.S. Coast Guard implements a law passed by Congress.

The ECOS and ECOSL prevent runaway vessels and the threats they pose. The ECOSL attaches the vessel operator to a switch that shuts off the engine if the operator is displaced from the helm. The ECOSL is usually a lanyard-style cord that attaches to an ECOS either in close proximity to the helm or on the outboard motor itself if the vessel is operated by a tiller. When enough tension is applied, the ECOSL disengages from the ECOS and the motor is automatically shut down. Wireless ECOS have recently been developed and are also approved for use. These devices use an electronic “fob” that is carried by the operator and senses when it is submerged in water, activating the ECOS and turning the engine off. Wireless devices are available on the aftermarket and are beginning to become available as manufacturer-installed options.

Each year, the Coast Guard receives reports of recreational vessel operators who fall off or are suddenly and unexpectedly thrown out of their boat. These events have led to injuries and deaths. During these incidents the boat continues to operate with no one in control of the vessel, leaving the operator stranded in the water as the boat continues on course, or the boat begins to circle the person in the water eventually striking them, often with the propeller. These dangerous runaway vessel situations put the ejected operator, other users of the waterway, marine law enforcement officers, and other first responders in serious danger.

Section 8316 of the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020 requires individuals operating covered recreational vessels (less than 26 feet in length, with an engine capable of 115 lbs. or more of static thrust, which equates to about 3 horsepower or more) to use ECOS “links” while operating on plane or above displacement speed. Using the ECOSL is not required when the main helm is installed within an enclosed cabin. Common situations where ECOSL use would not be required include docking/trailing, trolling, and operating in no-wake zones.

Seven states currently have ECOS use laws for recreational vessels, and 44 states have ECOS use laws for personal watercraft (PWC).

Boaters are encouraged to check the U.S. Coast Guard website for additional information on this new use requirement and other safety regulations and recommendations:

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-switch-faq.php>

-USCG-



FULL-FACE SNORKEL MASK USE PROHIBITED

Full-face snorkel masks are combinations of a built-in snorkel with a mask covering the entire face. Due to several unexplained fatalities involving the use of full-face snorkel masks, their use is prohibited in all BSA aquatic activities. BSA is closely following aquatics industry efforts to further investigate the safety of full-face snorkel masks.

Full-face snorkel masks are prohibited in all BSA aquatic activities; all participants should use traditional dive masks and snorkels.



News Release

March 25, 2021

Contact: Kevin Longley (202) 701-8768 | klongley@asce.org



ASCE's EWRI Declares April Low Head Dam Public Safety Awareness Month

RESTON, Va. –The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) has determined April 2021 and every April hereafter will be known as Low Head Dam Public Safety Awareness Month. The designation is meant to draw awareness to the safety hazard posed by low head dams to swimmers, kayakers, or other river goers, who may not recognize these structures and the turbulent currents they may cause. Between 2018 and 2020 there were 111 reported deaths due to incidents cause by low head dams.



“Preventing the tragedies caused by low head dams is a matter very near and dear to my heart,” said Tom Smith, ASCE Executive Director. “As someone who enjoys river kayaking, swimming and fishing, I’m particularly aware of the dangers of low head dams, the hydraulics of which have caused numerous fatalities, including here in Virginia. They also create a host of liability issues, as you can see from a 2011 Virginia Supreme Court case (Volpe v. City of Lexington), involving a fatality on the Maury River, on which I lived and spent a great deal of time while in law school. It is time we address this important issue which affects any of us who enjoy being on the water.”

A low head dam is a manmade structure spanning a river or stream channel in which water flows over the top of the dam. They can be difficult to locate and are not usually marked and become deadly when unknowing river goers are pushed underwater due to the strong turbulence and recirculating currents caused by the dam.

Low Head Dam Public Safety Awareness Month is meant to spread awareness of the risks associated with low head dams. In addition, ASCE’s EWRI is encouraging the public to assist in identifying low head dams across the country to create a database of where these dams are located to protect those who may now know where the dams are located. Marked low head dams could keep residents safe by knowing where to avoid recreational activities that would be dangerous near a low head dam.

NOTE: The BSA has signed on in support of the Low-Head Dam Public Safety Awareness month proclamation. This newsletter will attempt to periodically revisit the topic of low-head dam safety.





October 10, 2016

American Heart Association and American Red Cross CPR Training and Education Joint Statement

The American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Red Cross are dedicated to saving more lives from cardiac arrest through public awareness, educational programs to train more people in CPR, and advocating for continued and increased funding of CPR and resuscitation science. Both the AHA's and the Red Cross' CPR educational programs are congruent with recommendations in the *2015 International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) Science With Treatment Recommendations*, which is the most current and comprehensive review of published resuscitation literature.

As national and international leaders in CPR education and training, the AHA and the Red Cross are releasing this joint statement to reinforce that both organizations' CPR educational programs for trained lay responders and professional responders are scientifically valid and reflect the most current resuscitation science. Both programs offer approaches that incorporate the level of experience of both lay and professional responders and situations victims may encounter in real life.

- On the basis of evidence of improved outcomes, both the AHA and the Red Cross stress the importance of the Chain of Survival, which includes early recognition of cardiac arrest, early activation of emergency response, immediate high-quality CPR, rapid defibrillation, basic and advanced emergency medical services, and advanced life support and post arrest care.
- The AHA and the Red Cross agree that for cardiac arrest victims of all ages, early and effective high-quality chest compressions improve outcomes. For the majority of cardiac arrests, CPR must first begin with compressions and then breaths.

The AHA and the Red Cross continue to share a common vision to improve outcomes after cardiac arrest by providing education and supporting the continued and increased funding of CPR and resuscitation research.



THE BSA NATIONAL AQUATICS SUBCOMMITTEE

The National Aquatics Subcommittee meets at least twice a year and has multiple on-going projects aimed at helping you in support of your local aquatics programs.

This eNewsletter is one effort to keep you informed of what's going on in BSA aquatics.

Direct information or inquiries regarding this newsletter or the Aquatics Subcommittee to Steve at:

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<http://t.email.scouting.org/lp/subscribeoutdoorprograms>

