



## Spirit of America Foundation Final Report FY'12-13 Grant # 1202.10

### Narratives

**Abstract, (suitable for publication):**

#### Vision Statement:

##### Spirit of America: America's Premier Youth Boating Education Programs

Spirit of America is a public service educational organization, which exists to primarily serve our youth, their families, and our communities by providing a resource of education and recreation for all generations to participate in, in the life-long enjoyment of boating and also including all types of water based recreation in a healthy and safe environment to which everyone is entitled. Spirit of America Foundation is unique in the opportunities they present as an educational organization providing mandatory curriculum in State Boating Education Courses, a drowning prevention and equipment awareness program, and all three on water disciplines in sail, paddle, and power. In addition the students are also educated in Basic personal watercraft maintenance and operation and large vessel education.

An integral component of this organization and its programs is to meet the guidelines of the current United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety's National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan, including but not limited to, public awareness of safe boating practices, on water education, and increased life jacket wear as key components. Spirit of America shall be made available in all 50 states. Spirit of America presently has facilitating organizations and providers of the Spirit program in 10 states and the District of Columbia and in 20 locations within those states.

Spirit of America is grateful for the grant provided by the United States Coast Guard which funds, in part, programs of the Spirit of America Foundation throughout the country.

#### Mission Statement

Spirit of America will continue to provide a unique, SAFE and educational introduction, to our country's young people, their families and communities, to all types of water based recreational activities in the most unique, rare, and diverse "hands-on" classrooms in America. Our young people take part in a curriculum, which is directly tied to local, state, national and STEM education standards in a nontraditional classroom setting, and including the newly developed on water course standards (under development).

Spirit of America Foundation is dedicated and committed to continuing their leadership role in advancing the promotion of education and the safety of all recreational boating activities for all participants throughout the United States, providing education and appropriate accessibility that is for everyone, all ages, and allowing our middle school aged children the primary use of the program at no cost, in an effort to continue to grow a viable, sustainable safety culture for all future generations. No Child Left on the Dock.

*The Spirit of America Foundation* programs introduce young people to several different types and sizes of watercraft, spanning all disciplines, and water based activities, all of which nurture responsible behavior.

We provide an ideal environment for the students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions. Based on an all hands-on program, Spirit of America empowers our youth, in a non-traditional classroom setting, to dare to dream, while meeting the underlying goals of the curriculum for developing self esteem and confidence, teamwork, safe seamanship, appropriate boating and water safety practices, physical health and well-being, a promise of a productive and successful future, and responsible behavior in our young adults.

Spirit is highly regarded as an “education program of choice” in our country. We are proud to be recognized by the United States Coast Guard as the leading nonprofit providing outstanding hands on boating and water safety education to American families and communities, with their support through a grant by their office. Spirit of America Foundation challenges each of you to get on board with the National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan which may be reviewed at: [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) and *actively participate*, as we do, as Implementing Partners with the Coast Guard in an effort to reduce accidents and fatalities on our nations waterways, within a “safety culture” for all persons that is second to none.

**The Goal:**

As requested by the US Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Spirit of America respectfully requested and was awarded a grant specifically for the purpose to “Develop, Produce, and Distribute the Spirit of America programs by providing education from the classroom (State Approved – (NASBLA) course) to the pool / or water environment to train in a drowning prevention course and equipment awareness, and through all three disciplines of watercraft, “training, on-water boat handling instruction for recreational motorboat operators”, and in addition, sailing, personal watercraft, and paddle instruction disciplines. Spirit of America provided, through a grant from the US Coast guard, “an increase in our current capabilities to conduct on-water boat handling instruction for our young recreational boat operators, their families and their communities, of power driven, sail and paddle (human powered) vessels through such means as an increase in physical resources, marketing, specific outreach efforts, and (*in particular*) enhanced instructor development and capability to increase the capacity to deliver available on-water education programs”.