Water N’ Kids Lesson Plan

This course is best delivered within a classroom setting (18 to 25 students) to allow for better-controlled interactivity and feedback. If presented in a larger assembly setting, such activity will be more limited. The lesson should take 45 to 55 minutes, depending on the size of the audience, so practice since a smooth presentation is vital. Teachers will be willing to provide classroom time for a valuable experience, but not if it appears disorganized and runs too far into their teaching day. For the students, the presentation must be smooth, interesting, and NOT run into their lunch period if scheduled too close to their lunchtime or dismissal time at the end of the school day. Always be mindful of the time of day the presentations are scheduled.

Some “props” to bring as part of the presentation:

* Life jackets of various sizes (child and adult) for students to try on.
* Items to demonstrate the “Reach-Throw-Row-Go” lesson such as paddles, tree branches, a line attached to a life jacket, a pool-cleaning pole, a drink cooler, or anything that can help a student reach someone or throw to someone.
* Examples of common pollution items that take years to decay: glass, plastic, aluminum, fishing line, etc.
* Panda pledge cards to distribute.
* Pre-printed class completion certificates for each student and the classroom teachers.
* Anything on a local level that will help demonstrate safety.

1. OPENING:

* Welcome the students and teachers.
* Explain the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
* Introduce each instructor.
* Briefly explain what the students will learn: (students will be able to demonstrate safe practices for swimming, boating, and avoiding pollution).

2. DELIVERY:

Presentation of the information in the PowerPoint and use of “props” to demonstrate safety practices. Instructors should be sure to ask the students all the prompt questions in the instructor notes as they move through the slides. Many of the slides require student participation. Take only a few (three or four) student volunteers to come to the front of the room. These students can be used to demonstrate fitting life jackets during that part of the program.

Take a few more volunteers to practice the skills during “Reach-Throw-Row-and Go” sections.

When introducing the section on pollution, ask students about items that pollute the water and what effect it might have on sea life. Use “show and tell” to discuss the items and “props” you brought to illustrate items that pollute the waterways.

Review the material learned by having all the students recite Coastie’s Rules as you summarize the presentation. Have all the students also recite the Panda Pledge at the end of the program.

3. CLOSING:

Be sure to thank the students for their attention and the teachers for allowing you to be there and take time from their classes for your message. You can give the teachers the student class completion certificates to distribute to the students to take home.

4. THANK YOU:

Later, write a thank you letter to the teacher(s) involved and to the school principal. There is a sample with the Water N’ Kids Program Kit.

NOTE: If you take photos of the class, make sure you don’t show the children’s faces unless you have WRITTEN permission forms from the parents or guardians. Do not publish any photos showing students’ faces on social media, your flotilla newsletters, or other promotional materials.