

# Operation Paddle Smart - Simple, Beneficial & Free

**Operation Paddle Smart's** goal is to educate paddle-sport enthusiasts how to stay safe, be responsible boaters & help emergency responders in SAR type situations. It's goal is to make your boating season safer & more enjoyable as well as help recover your property if lost & could help save lives. It provides a focal point for boating & paddling organizations, retailers as well as others to work together to promote paddle sport safety plus providing valuable information to all paddlers & small boaters.

When small craft such as kayaks or canoes are found adrift, typically there is no way of determining whether or not individuals may be in distress. In such situations, having timely access to some basic information can make all the difference between wasting valuable search & rescue (SAR) resources or actually saving lives.

While recreational & commercial vessels display hull registration numbers or a vessel name that permit identification of the owner, small non-power boats such as kayaks, canoes, row boats & small sail boats typically do not provide such a means for identifying the owner or allowing them to be contacted. To help address this problem, **Operation Paddle Smart was launched to create an improvised means of vessel identification for small non-power watercraft.** This program benefits all vessel owners, boaters, emergency responders & taxpayers by reducing money wasted on unnecessary SAR cases.



Paddle Smart Identification Sticker  
**IF FOUND - CONTACT**  
Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Use waterproof marker

**The Paddle Smart weather-proof sticker, when properly filled out using a permanent waterproof marker & appropriately applied to small craft by vessel owners, can help: save lives, recover missing property, reduce resources expended on non-emergency SAR activities related to unnecessarily deploying limited resources to search for someone who is not in danger saving tax payer dollars, sparing rescue crews from being unnecessarily put at risk or family / friends pointless anxiety.**

**Each Paddle Smart sticker provides a place for small craft owner's to display their name, phone & cell phone numbers.** It is important to put two valid phone numbers on sticker, since a cell phone could become non-functional if it ends up in the water. Under such circumstances, an alternate number provides a way to check if an emergency exists or to arrange for return of property to its owner. Timely access to this information is critical during the initial SAR investigation phase if the craft is found a drift.

## **[Request Operation Paddle Smart materials & stickers from USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 23-1 Annapolis, MD](#)**

### **Guidelines for Properly Filling Out & Mounting Paddle Smart Stickers:**

- **Use Black Waterproof Permeant Marker**
- **Identify an interior location on a vertical surface easily visible**
- **Clean selected area with an alcohol wipe & let thoroughly dry**
- **Carefully peel backing off sticker & mount in selected location**
- **Cover sticker with clear wide packing tape**

# **PADDLERS**

**THIS LITTLE STICKER  
CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE**



**If we find a boat it  
helps determine:  
WHO · WHERE · WHEN**

**PADDLE SAFE  
PADDLE SMART**



**WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET**