



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

John Zanoni, Sheriff

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News Release

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Boater ID Cards Required for All Operators of Motorized Vessels

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office wants to remind the community that persons of all ages are now required to have a California Boater Card when operating a motorized vessel. If you are stopped by law enforcement on a waterway and do not have a card, you may receive an infraction citation. If convicted, you may face a fine of up to \$100. Further violations can incur fines up to \$500.

Beginning in 2018, California required Boater ID Cards for specific age groups. Other age groups were phased in each of the following years. As of January 1, 2025, all ages are required to have a Boater ID Card. The purpose is to ensure operators gain an understanding of boating laws and safety practices. The state's goal is to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities that occur on waterways through proper education.

A person may operate a vessel without a Boater ID Card if they are being supervised by an adult on board who possesses a Boater ID Card. Those who rent a vessel are not required to have a Boater ID Card, however, you are encouraged to obtain one.

To obtain a lifetime Boater ID Card, you must complete an approved course and pay a one-time fee of \$10. To apply, visit: <https://californiaboatercard.com>