**2023 Marine Training Academy Requirements and Policies**

On behalf of the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office, the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, I want to welcome you to the 2023 State Marine Training Academy. This year’s academy will be held from Monday, April 24, through Friday, April 28 2023, at the Ottawa County DHS Building at 12185 James St, Holland Michigan commencing in the Macatawa Conference Room. We will also be going to Yacht Basin Marina, 1862 Ottawa Beach Rd., Holland, MI 49424 and an area High School for offsite training 2 days of the week.

The Marine Academy training is only one week, so to get the most out of our time we are **requiring** you to complete the following prior to attending:

1. **Read and study the Marine Safety Act at the DNR web site:**

This site was created and designed by the DNR to provide a “one stop” portal for county agencies to make it easier to access laws and grant programs. The site was designed by the DNR to serve the relationship that exists between the counties and the State related to the various law enforcement programs.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs

Once at this site each student must review: Marine Safety Part 801, Personal Watercraft Part 802, Watercraft Titling Part 803, Charter and Livery Boat Safety, Recreational Trespass, Littering, and all readings under the heading of Administrative Rules. This is a great site to get to know and become familiar with.

1. **Also, study and *complete* the Michigan Boater Education Course.** Your department should be able to provide you with the study material for this course or you can complete it online. Upon completion of the course, you will be issued a Boater Safety Certificate. ***Bring your Boater Safety Certificate* to class**.

**Motel Accommodations:**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Holiday Inn Express Holland,** 12381 Felch St., Holland, MI 49424. Contact number to reserve rooms is 616-738-2800. Rooms have been set aside from April 23 – April 28, 2023, at a rate of $85.00 per room with up to four students sharing a room. This includes a breakfast at the motel. If you need a room for the night of the April 28, 2023, please let them know and the rate may be higher. This cost is tax exempt **if you provide Holiday Inn with a copy of your department’s tax exemption.** Room reservations must be made by March 26, 2023, to assure a room and are to be made under the **State Marine Academy 2023** group reservation.

**Dress:**

Dress will be “business casual” which is **dress pants and collared shirt** for classroom activities. If you carry a weapon, you must either be in uniform, or have it concealed as other county employees do not know who you are.

Take along *“work-out clothes”* for the Officer Safety Training portion as we will be doing strenuous activities. **You will need a gun belt and handcuffs for the class, no weapon.**

For the pool training, you will need long pants (dress pants work the best as it is similar to your uniform pants) that will get wet as well as a swimsuit and towel.

On Thursday, the day that we are doing practical boat handling on the water, you will have to dress for the weather which can be from hot to cold, and/or wet. We will be conducting the training regardless of weather conditions so dress appropriately. You will need to bring your own ***PFD*** for this training which must always be worn when on the dock or a vessel.

**Elective Trainings:**

Once again year we will be holding a 4-hour “breakout session” for newly appointed Marine Unit Administrators. This will be held during the 4 hour OWI/Alcohol Enforcement class and is designed for certified officers who have been newly appointed as their agencies Marine Administrators. This breakout session will cover reporting requirements to the DNR, responsibilities of the Marine Administrator and other topics designed specifically for the Marine Administrator.

**Requirements for graduation:**

You are required to attend each class and pass the exams. Also, remember “early is on time, on time is late”. This is a 40-hour mandated class and will run from **8 am Monday to 5 pm Friday** to complete the state required 40 hours. If driving back after 5pm on Friday is a hardship, please make arrangements to stay overnight.

**Exams:**

There may be an exam each day over the previous day’s material. There will be a final exam on the last day of class which you must pass for class completion. There will also be other exams throughout the week as required by the individual instructors.

We look forward to seeing each of you in April, feel free to reach out with any questions.

# Lt. Eric Westveer – Facilitator Sgt Jon Knott

# MSA State Marine Training Academy Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office

# Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit

[ewestveer@miottawa.org](mailto:ewestveer@miottawa.org) jknott@miottawa.org