

Boat & Water Safety

**Common sense and safety rules
never spoil a good time!**





Water's fine!



There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when the Earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!

We are a vibrant lake community and especially during the warmer months our lake is even more inviting for a swim or a float, paddle boarding, wind-surfing, kayaking and boating.

Because we live on a lake most of us know about boat and water safety and best practices - to varying degrees. But, the fact is accidents can happen to experts as well as novices - the difference is experts anticipate and prepare for situations by refreshing and growing their knowledge regularly.

We'd like you to take a few minutes at least once a year to reacquaint yourself, your family and your guests with general boat and water safety information/tips *as well as our Dawn Lake Rules and Regulations.*

You will never regret making sure you and others are "water safe."

Also, remember if you have tenants or guests in your Dawn Lake home it's your responsibility to make sure they are aware of, and comply with all Dawn Lake Rules and Regulations. We want everyone to safely enjoy their time at the lake!

**Have fun. Be safe.
Get out on (and in) the water!**

Please note: The information/ tips in this deck are informational only. Boating on, and swimming in Dawn Lake is done at your own risk. DL Rules and Regulations cited here are posted in full on dawnlake.net

it's a Lifestyle!

Lake

Dawn



Rules & Regulations - Operating Boats on our Lake.

Dawn Lake was made for water recreation: morning kayaking and paddle boarding, afternoon wind surfing, and evening sunset boat rides.

Before you head out make sure you know the “rules of our road.”

Be safe and help protect our lake while you and your family and friends are having fun.



Over 90% of the world's supply of fresh water is located in Antarctica.

- **No boats over 16' in length (Violation fine: \$50/day).**
- **Sailboats with a mast over 6 feet long must be equipped with flotation device(s) to keep the mast from going under water. Sailboats must be brought into compliance before using them.**
- **No gas powered motors (Violation fine: \$50/each occurrence).**
- **Maximum speed of 5 mph NO wake (Violation fine: \$5/each occurrence).**
- **Travel counter-clockwise. Motorized boats must stay at least 10' from shore, docks and docked boats (except when pulling in | out of a dock).**
- **Must be at least 18-years-old to operate a motorized boat.**
- **Children 12 yrs and under must wear a life jacket. Life jackets must be available for each occupant of ALL water crafts.**
- **Do not exceed the manufacturers capacity of your vessel.**
- **Anchors - of any kind - may NOT be used (Violation fine: \$25/each occurrence).**
- **Boats must be tethered to an approved dock and all boats must be operational (Violation fine: \$5/day for docking against lake wall).**
- **All motorized boats must have the owner's dock number(s) at least 3" high on the starboard side so the number(s) is visible from shore. (Violation fine: \$5/each occurrence)**
- **Running lights ON from sunset to sunrise. Running lights = a red light on the port side of the boat green light on the starboard side of the boat, and a white light that can be seen all around (Violation fine: \$5/each occurrence).**



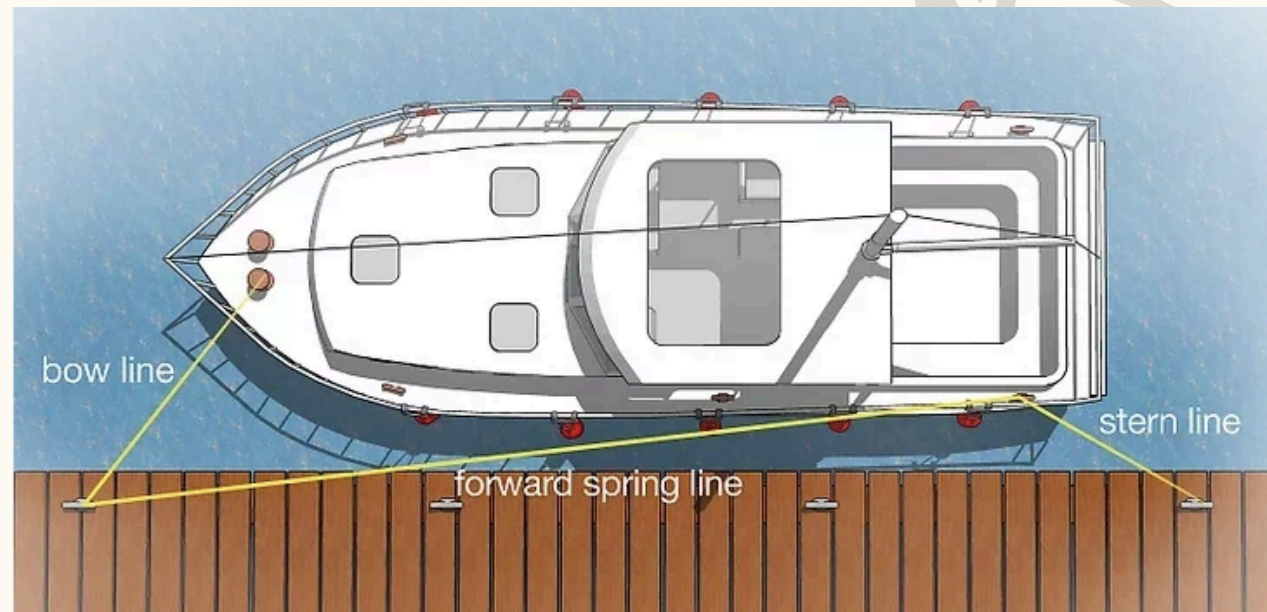
Make sure another person on your vessel knows how to drive or how to hail for help in case of an emergency.



Human powered vessels (kayaks, SUPs, canoes, etc.) have the right-of-way over any other vessel including a sailboat.

Boatfirst

Staying put

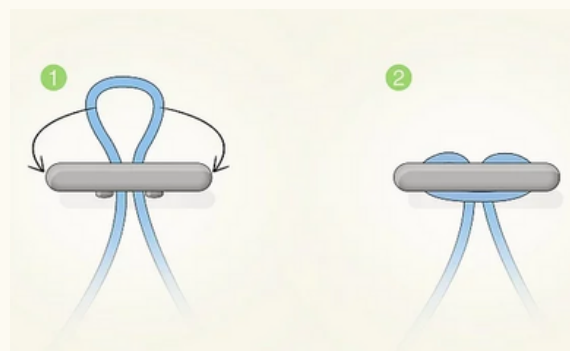


It's important to know how to secure your boat. Using spring lines is a simple way to ensure your boat will stay put. Also, don't forget to secure your covers, cushions and Bimini tops.

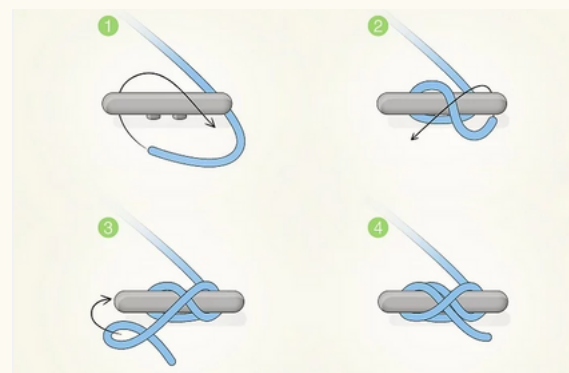
Remember: *If your boat cuts loose and causes damage to other boats, docks or any lake structures | walls you are responsible.*

All tied up

Most dock lines have two ends: looped and open.



The looped end is tied on a boat cleat with a cleat knot.



A cleat hitch secures the open end of your lines to dock cleats.

Avoid the Fountains

We have five fountains on the lake. When they are on they are easily visible - October 1- April 30 on: 10 am-11 pm, May 1 - September 30 on: 7 pm - 10 pm.

Periodically, all fountains are turned off for approx. 10-15 days for evaporation/seepage testing and also as needed for maintenance. When the fountains are off boaters need to be aware of their locations.

Clean-up - Ramp - Trailers

CLEAN BEFORE YOU LAUNCH: When a boat is brought to DL from another lake **the boat AND trailer MUST be thoroughly cleaned to prevent Golden Algae or mussel contamination. (this is a DL regulation).** **NOTE:** BOATS CANNOT BE CLEANED ON THE DAWN LAKE BOAT RAMP.

All parts of the boat and trailer that come into contact with water must be cleaned with a solution of 10 parts water to 1 part chlorine bleach. Clean by power wash or sponge, then rinse and dry for three days. If your boat and trailer are cleaned by an outside contractor your receipt must show proof of cleaning **(this is a DL regulation).**

BOAT RAMP LOCATION | ACCESS: The boat ramp is located on W. Whispering Lake Dr, dock 19A. For the gate lock key call Jerry Dykstra (602) 350-8993 (24-hours in advance please). **NOTE:** If swan barricades are present you will need to carefully dismantled them and re-installed when you finish using the ramp.

TRAILER STORAGE: Trailers cannot be stored on your property OR the street. There are many self-storage facilities in our area. Sun City RV Compound, Inc. is a non-profit facility for Sun City residents only: [Sun City RV Compound, Inc.](#)



Arizona State Parks and Trails has good general boating safety info. **AND it's an overall terrific site.**

Boaters

There are **NO LIFEGUARDS** at Dawn Lake - swim & boat at your own risk.

It's easy to see our lake as being "safe" - it's not open water, no severe currents, no underwater debris, we boat close to shore and usually we can see the lake bottom from our docks. We take safety seriously.

The fact is, no matter how safe we perceive the lake to be, accidents with severe consequences can happen. **Getting educated and using common sense actually keeps US safe** on our beautiful lake!

Water Quality

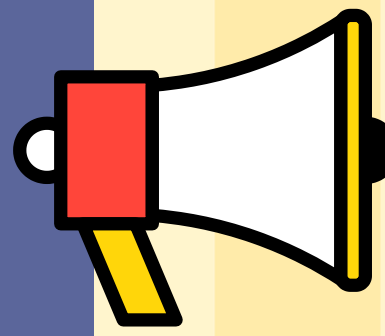
Dawn Lake is fed with untreated water pumped from a well and is normally safe for swimming however, we recommend you do not ingest lake water. Testing for E. Coli and Golden Algae is done 2x a year and those results are reported to members and are archived on dawnlake.net site.

Kids & Water

Kids LOVE water and we love kids! Do not assume a child will stay out of the water even if they are told not to go in or near the lake - **a child can slip away in seconds.**

- **Supervise children at ALL TIMES** - don't take a call or run to get a towel. A child can quietly start to drown in 30 seconds OR less.
- **Children under the age of 12 MUST wear a life jacket when on the water.** Consider having young children who cannot swim wear life jackets on land while they are near the lake.
- The greatest prevention of child drowning is **ARM'S LENGTH TOUCH SUPERVISION.**

Common sense and safety rules never spoiled a good time!



- Don't dive into the lake from the shore.
- Don't swim or boat when you've been drinking alcohol.
- Swimming at night can be dangerous - boats can't see you. In the winter months night temperatures are low.
- Don't swim alone.
- Understand how medications might impact your ability to swim or operate a boat.

You drop your phone...

...you reach over and now you're in the water. **You'll likely be shocked by the water temperature and the suddenness of your experience - don't PANIC.**

Stay with your vessel - life jacket or not - and move it and yourself **SLOWLY** to the nearest dock ladder. Rest often. If no vessel and you are able to swim, move **SLOWLY** toward the nearest dock ladder - back float often if needed to rest.

If you CANNOT or are UNABLE TO SWIM - FLOAT ON YOUR BACK immediately - breathe normally until help arrives. Relaxation is key - fear and anxiety can make your muscles tense, which can make floating more difficult. **You can do this!** (learn more about how to float effectively - go to the Source | Resource page of this deck.)

No matter how you accidentally end up in the water - STAYING CALM is the single most important thing you can do.

- **Learn to swim!** [The Swim Club of Sun City](#) offers swim classes
- **Consider taking a CPR class.** There are options in our area - for a fee and for free. Contact SC Fire & Medical or RCSC.

SWIM!



Remain calm. Think about how you could help.

IF you saw a person in the water, what would you do?

If you didn't answer that question with at least one action - even without knowing specifics - spend a little time here to start thinking.

Each situation is unique. The following scenarios **are NOT instructions** and they **are NOT the only things that could be done** - you make those determinations in the moment. Assistance could be something as simple as investigating.

Quickly assess: Maybe they're a swimmer- keep them in sight for a while for signs of distress. No matter what, if you sense or see that something doesn't look right - **investigate.**

Call out to the person - to see if they can tell you what they are doing OR want you to do.

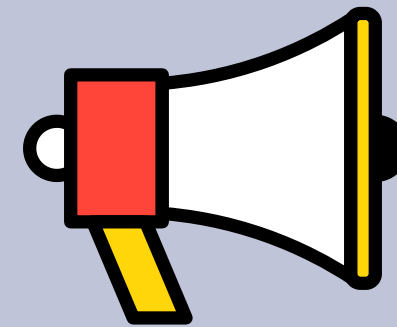
If you determine the person needs help but is not struggling - from shore, get a flotation device in the water as close to them as you can. something to help them stay afloat - then call a neighbor for help. Keep your eyes on them at all times.

If you have a boat and can get to them quickly - do it. Keep your eyes on them at all times - **if they are struggling before you even begin your rescue- call 911 immediately.** As you near them in your boat, throw them a life jacket or boat fender - anything that will help keep them afloat and calm until you can get them in the boat.

Think hard NOW about whether you should swim to a victim. Experts advise that only extremely competent swimmers should attempt in-water rescues (if you can easily swim 50 yards doing a front crawl or breaststroke and 2 mins. easily treading water). If you don't know what you're doing you could potentially make the situation worse despite your best intentions.

In the end if the person in the water didn't need help - great! - you'll both have a story to tell.

**If they did need help,
hopefully it will be a story you both can tell!**



Keep life jackets, a float or a life ring on your dock at all times - even if you're not in residence. Check it often and replace when needed.

If the best vantage point to help a person is from your dock, there will be equipment in place.

Recognize the physical signs of drowning

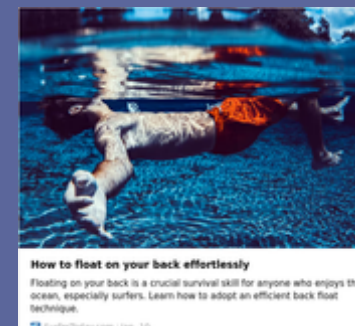
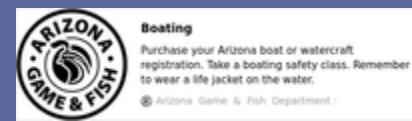
- Active drowning can begin within 20 seconds of the person being in distress.
- An active drowning victim will not be able to call for help.
- While an active drowning victim might still be vertical in the water, they will be unable to move towards help or safety.
- Active drowning victims will not be able to wave for assistance or reach for equipment. Once drowning has begun, the victim cannot voluntarily control his arm movements.
- Active drowning victims typically struggle on the surface for 20-60 seconds before being submerged.
- Active drowning victims will have their heads tilted back so their mouth and nose is above water, this is an instinct.

To access these resources

- Simply click on the source logos or boxes you see here and you will be taken to the main or another specific page on their websites.

Please Note:

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- Swimming and boating on Dawn Lake is **DONE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**
- [Dawn Lake Rules and Regulations](#) cited here are posted in full on dawnlake.net



Resources