



NEWS

June 5-6
Voinovich Park and North Coast Harbor
Downtown Cleveland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GET OUT ON THE WATER AT FREE BOATING FESTIVAL

CLEVELAND – For the 11th consecutive summer, North Coast Harbor and Voinovich Park in downtown Cleveland will host a boating weekend unlike any other in northeast Ohio.

The North Coast Harbor Boating & Fishing Fest, to be held June 5-6 next to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, will offer free powerboat rides, sailboat rides and fishing trips to visitors.

Boats this year will include the 65-foot schooner Journey, operated by B-About Sail Ministries; a 20-person dragon boat canoe piloted by the Cleveland Rowing Association; and the Holiday, a long-time city charter boat.

The event will also include giveaways, food, live music and educational exhibits.

Last year's festival attracted thousands to the waterfront and was perhaps the most-attended ever.

The boats ran continuously on both days of the event and Capt'n Willie the Great Lakes Pirate entertained families on land.

"The weather was beautiful and everyone came off the boats with big smiles on their faces," said Ken Gray, chairman of the host Lake Erie Safe Boating Council. "There's just something about the open water on a warm day that makes people happy."

Though there are 24,000 registered boats in Cuyahoga County and 82,000 in the greater Cleveland/Akron market, opportunities to raise new generations of boaters are limited because the lakefront is largely cut off from the public.

"Our volunteers provide people the opportunity to get out on the water for free and make boating accessible to all, at least for a few days each summer," said Gray.

The event is funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft, Neighborhood Connections (a program of the Cleveland Foundation) and National Water Safety Congress; and donations from the Greater Cleveland Safety Council, ODNR Division of Wildlife and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Other partners include the Greater Cleveland Boating Association, North Coast Black Bass Anglers Association, Samsel Marine Supply, U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sea Scouts, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association and various U.S. Power Squadrons.

The fest will be open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, visit boatingfest.com.

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