

## Coast Guard Movie Coming to a Theater Near You

Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher visited a Coast Guard station to promote *The Guardian*, their upcoming movie which aims to do for the Coast Guard's elite rescue swimmers what *Top Gun* did for Navy fighter pilots.

The film, set for release on September 29, tells the story of two Coast Guard swimmers who rescue fishermen and boaters from dangerous ocean waters. Costner plays a veteran Coast Guard swimmer sent to teach in Kodiak, Alaska, after his crew is lost in a crash. Kutcher's character is a cocky newcomer.

"We get to portray these men and women who are often tougher than we are, men and women who are often smarter than we are, and in the case of *The Guardian*, we are talking about men and women who put themselves in danger in a way I don't know I would," Costner, 51, said.

Kutcher, 28, said he hoped the movie would give the public more appreciation for the Coast Guard's "courageous and honorable" work.

"When I first read the script, I thought it was all made up because I didn't think anyone got to be that cool," he said.

## Safe Boating Grants to be Offered

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is offering grants of up to \$4,000 each to local community organizations and nonprofit groups to help finance innovative projects that will help make the nation's waterways safer for recreational boaters.

Over the past 17 years, the foundation has awarded nearly \$700,000 in safety grant funds to organizations that have developed innovative projects that promote safe boating on local waterways. A total of nearly \$50,000 in grant funding for projects is available in 2007, he said.

Past projects ranged from creating literature on the effects of boating under the influence of alcohol to boat ramp signage informing users about free safety checks.

BoatU.S. said that the deadline to apply for these grants, which are scheduled to be awarded in late January 2007, is November 1.

Eligible groups, which include boat and yacht clubs, Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas and local U.S. Power Squadrons, interested in applying for a grant may download an application at [www.boatus.com/foundation](http://www.boatus.com/foundation) or obtain more information about the grant program by calling (703) 461-2878, ext. 8353.

## Increase in Boating & Waterways Funds

Governor Schwarzenegger signed a \$131.4 billion budget in June that includes \$83.46 million for the Department of Boating and Waterways, an increase of \$11.29 million over last year. The budget includes \$43.54 million to construct and improve recreational boating facilities throughout the state - an increase of \$5.84 million.

DBW director Raynor Tsuneyoshi said that this budget will fund much-needed public access boating facility projects, which supports tourism and generates revenue for both the public and private sectors. "The highlight of Schwarzenegger's budget for Cal Boating is a significant increase in funds for boating law enforcement," Tsuneyoshi said. "With more boats on the water each year, additional law enforcement is needed to provide for public safety."

This budget provides an additional \$2.5 million for boating law enforcement aid for local governments for a total of \$10.6 million.




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