

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH MAY 2026

- WHEREAS,** Each May, states across the country observe National Water Safety Month, to promote water safety, encourage Americans to be more “water aware,” and educate the public of their role in modeling safer water practices to prevent recreational water-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths ahead of the summer season; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Maryland recognizes the vital role that swimming and aquatic-related activities play in promoting good physical and mental health and enhancing the quality of life for all people; and
- WHEREAS,** Increased water safety education is essential to prevent drownings and recreational water-related injuries for children and adults; and
- WHEREAS,** Drowning is the number one related death in children aged one to four, ahead of car accidents, birth abnormalities, and cancer, with marked disparities among Black children; drowning is the second leading cause of unintended death for children aged five to fourteen and adolescents aged fifteen to seventeen; and
- WHEREAS,** Most drowning tragedies can be prevented through development of safe swimming skills and by wearing life jackets while exploring open water; more than 90 percent of victims in fatal boating-related incidents in Maryland since 2020 were not wearing a life jacket; and
- WHEREAS,** Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources offers a variety of boating safety classes through its Water Wise efforts to promote water safety; and
- WHEREAS,** The contributions of the recreational water industry, represented by organizations involved in the National Water Safety Month Coalition, are essential in the work to develop safe swimming facilities, aquatic programs, and home pools and spas; and provide healthy places to recreate, learn and grow, and build self-esteem; and
- WHEREAS,** During National Water Safety Month, the State of Maryland joins states across the country to raise awareness about water safety and drowning prevention to help save lives and promote wellness, and calls on all residents to join us in this effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2026 as NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of May
Two Thousand and twenty-six



[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Lt. Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State

Secretary of State