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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 “I’M A SAFE BOATER. ARE YOU?” CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED
Children 4-15 Asked to Describe Their Safe Boating Efforts

Manassas, VA (September 16, 2008) – The National Safe Boating Council, with the support of West Marine, Inc., the country's favorite retailer of boating supplies and accessories, announced the winners of their 2008 Boating Safety Sidekicks Contest “I’m a Safe Boater. Are You?”

The third annual Boating Safety Sidekicks Contest “I’m a Safe Boater, Are You?” asked for children between the ages of 4 and 15 to submit posters, artwork, photography or movies in addition to short stories and essays that describe how they stay safe on the water. Essay winners were chosen based upon grammar, punctuation, composition and the story told. Poster and video winners were evaluated on design, style, artwork and the safety message.

First, second and third place prizes were awarded in three different categories for each age group: 4-7 yrs., 8-11 yrs. and 12-15 yrs. First place winners receive a \$100 savings bond, a life jacket, one NSBC member donated prize, Sidekicks cap and DVD; plus recognition on the Sidekicks website. Prizes donated courtesy of West Marine and Within Reach.

To read all of the winning entries, visit the Boating Safety Sidekicks web site www.boatingsafetysidekicks.com. A complete list of 2008 winners are as follows:

4-7 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY: Ryan P., 6, Groton Long Point, CT
- 1st PLACE POSTER: Noah B., 7, Los Lunas, NM

8-11 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY: Danielle J., 10, Rippey, IA
- 1ST PLACE POSTER: Frances F., 11, Tulsa, OK

12-15 Year Old Winners

- 1st PLACE STORY: Kristyn S, 14, Bonita Springs, FL
- 1st PLACE POSTER: Tee P., 14, The Plains, OH
- 1st PLACE VIDEO: Alex K., 13, Bernardston, MA

For more information on how to stay safe on the water, visit the National Safe Boating Council's website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

ABOUT NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

Formed in 1958, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education and outreach. The NSBC is comprised of over 333 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.

ABOUT WEST MARINE

West Marine, the country's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and accessories, has more than 350 stores located in 38 states, Puerto Rico, Canada and a franchised store located in Turkey. Our catalog and Internet channels offer customers approximately 50,000 products and the convenience of exchanging catalog and Internet purchases at our store locations. Our Port Supply division is one of the country's largest wholesale distributors of marine equipment serving boat manufacturers, marine services, commercial vessel operators and government agencies. For more information on West Marine's products and store locations, or to start shopping, visit www.westmarine.com or call 1-800-BOATING (1-800-262-8464).