



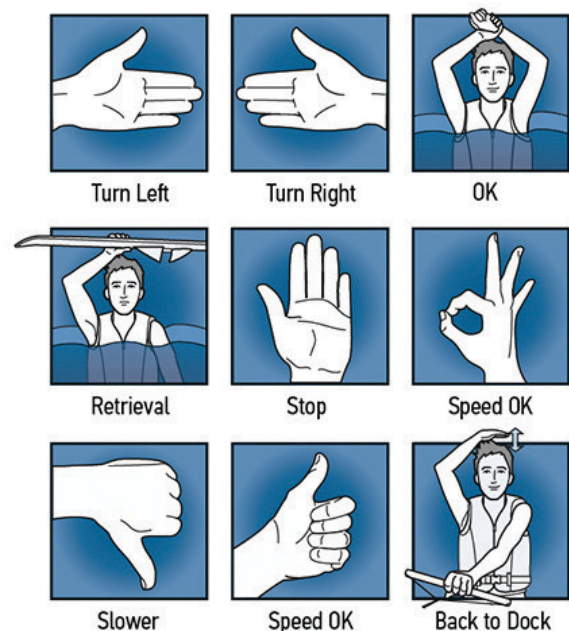
TOW SMART FROM THE START

Deep Creek Lake offers many wonderful boating opportunities including water-skiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, and tubing. With ever increasing numbers and sizes of boats, everyone must share the responsibility to operate their vessels in a legal and safe way for everyone involved. Courtesy to others sharing the waterway is a **MUST**.

This publication contains the regulations for towable water sports, including safety tips, and a map of Deep Creek Lake, showing where restrictions exist for towing water skiers, wake boarders, and tubers. Wake surfers have different rules pertaining to distance due to the large wake generated while engaging in this water sport.



All vessels on Deep Creek Lake must adhere to the Regulations Specific to Deep Creek published by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



MARYLAND REQUIREMENTS FOR TOWABLE WATER SPORTS

- The operator of a vessel towing person(s) on water skis or any other similar device must be at least 12 years old.
- The observer in the towing vessel must be at least 12 years old and is responsible for keeping a proper lookout.
- All persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis, or any other similar device must **WEAR** a USCG-approved life jacket appropriate for that activity.
- It is illegal to operate any vessel, or manipulate any device being towed in a careless, reckless or negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of anyone involved.
- A vessel may not tow a person(s) on water skis or any other similar device after the hours of sunset to sunrise.
- Except for taking off from shore, the towing vessel must stay **AT LEAST 100 FEET** from bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, and the shore when pulling a water skier(s), wake boarder(s), or tuber(s).
- Wake surfers must be **AT LEAST 200 FEET** from the shore, bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, etc.
- A personal watercraft must have the capacity to carry at least three people: the operator must be at least 16 years old, a rear-facing observer 12 years old, and the person being towed.
- Ski ropes may not be more than 75 feet long except when barefoot skiing, in which case a rope 100 feet long may be used.
- When using ballast for either wakeboarding or wakesurfing, the combined weight of ballast and passengers may not exceed the maximum weight capacity of the boat as designated on the capacity plate.

