



Water and Snow Tubing

Recreational activities are pillars of summer/winter camp, summer school, and recreational center experiences. They provide an opportunity for socialization and learning in a fun setting. These activities also provide an increased liability and potential for staff and/or participant injury. The safety of participants and staff should be standard operating procedure. It should be completed to the highest professional standards and in line with federal, state, local, and accrediting agency guidelines. The following checklist template provides a high level oversight to assist with your activity structure. Your organization is responsible for the development of your own written program guidelines and policies for the oversight of your activities. Through consistent management and preventative programs, exposures can be reduced to help ensure a safe recreational experience.

Water Tubing Safety Practices Pre-Activity:

- Get the participants comfortable with the water.
- Participants shall wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- Participants should watch experienced water tubing persons before trying it themselves.
- Check the inflatables, as they all have limits for weight, number of passengers, and inflation requirements.
- Check the towrope before each use to verify there are no signs of excessive wear and it is attached to the appropriate point on the tube.
- Know the body of water, as you can't tube in shallow water.

Safety Practices While on the Water:

- Have a spotter in the boat besides the trained driver that can watch the persons on the tube.
- Make sure that the water tube rider is safely positioned in the tube and knows how to hold the handles (with two hands) before starting the boat.
- Maintain a safe speed while on the water and be aware of other watercraft, docks, other swimmers, people fishing, and harmful obstacles such as rocks and buoys.
- Keep a safe distance to other watercraft to make the kids feel comfortable.
- When picking someone up after a fall, let the boat drift towards them, without power.
- Never tube after dark, as it is hazardous and illegal.
- Make it fun and **safe** for the tubers.

Snow Tubing Safety Tips:

- Make sure snow tube riders wear helmets for protection.
- Pay close attention to the warning label on tube to verify proper use.
- Sit on tubes the way they way they were designed to be used.
- Make sure to keep a safe distance between tube riders on snow runs.
- Have fun and go with a parent or buddy for safety.

Additional Resources for Tubing Safety:

[Safe Family Tubing](#)

[Tips for Towing Tubers](#)

[Sledding and Tubing Safety](#)

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