



About Us

Light the Way, Inc. was founded in 2024 in response to the tragic boating accident that claimed the lives of three young men — Ryan Britagna, Ian Duchemin, and Christopher Hallahan — near the unlit Saybrook Point Breakwater in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Their loss ignited a grassroots movement led by their families and community members, committed to preventing similar tragedies by promoting boating safety through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

Past and Current Activities

1. Advocate for Public Safety Legislation

The organization was instrumental in drafting and supporting a bill to link DUI offenses with boating license eligibility. This bipartisan bill has passed through the Transportation Committee and is expected to move to a full legislative vote. If passed, the law will prohibit individuals with DUI convictions or pending DUI cases from operating a boat during the duration of their license suspension, creating consistency between land and water safety standards.

2. Partner with the U.S. Coast Guard for Navigational Improvements

Light the Way organized a successful public petition, collecting hundreds of boater responses urging the U.S. Coast Guard to address the dangerous conditions at the Saybrook Point Breakwater. In response, the Coast Guard is now actively planning safety upgrades, including lighting the spindle involved in the 2024 accident and improving navigational markers in the surrounding area. These changes are the direct result of the nonprofit's grassroots advocacy and collaboration with federal authorities.

3. Build Community Awareness and Education

The nonprofit has hosted public vigils, engaged with local media, and launched educational campaigns to raise awareness about safe boating practices. Future educational materials, including safety brochures, school outreach programs, and online resources, are in development.

Planned Activities (Next 3 Years)

- Launch a Boating Safety Curriculum for schools, camps, and communities
- Host annual safety awareness events and boating safety fairs
- Fundraise for and acquire a Safety Education Boat for demonstrations
- Expand federal and local advocacy for improved waterway safety
- Build a Digital Resource Hub with safety guides and donation tools

Who Carries Out These Activities

All activities are currently carried out by an all-volunteer board of directors, supported by community volunteers and advisors. No paid staff are currently employed. All funds raised go directly to program costs, outreach, and nonprofit compliance.

Where Activities Take Place

While the organization is based in Connecticut, it aims to have regional and eventually national impact by advocating for federal navigational standards, Coast Guard collaborations, and safe boating education across the U.S.

When Activities Occur

Activities will be ongoing year-round. Public campaigns are active in spring and summer months (peak boating season), while legislative and educational initiatives are developed and promoted throughout the year.

Light the Way: Honoring Lives, Creating Safer Waters

Light the Way, Inc. honors the memory of three beautiful lives by transforming heartbreak into meaningful change. Through education, advocacy, and community action, we are lighting the way to safer waterways for everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our mission. Your interest and support mean more than words can express. Together, we can honor the memory of those we've lost and help prevent future tragedies.

Light the Way, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

We warmly invite your support — whether through donations, partnerships, volunteering, or simply spreading awareness.

Every action, big or small, helps us shine a light toward a safer future.

Thank you for standing with us to Light the Way.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jessica Britagna

President and Founder

Light the Way, Inc.