



LIGHT THE WAY

BOATER SAFETY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Education. Advocacy. Community. Action.



*To help more families return home safely
after every day on the water.*



CONNECTICUT



501(c)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY



SAYBROOKBREAKWATER.COM

A CONNECTICUT NONPROFIT BUILT AROUND A SIMPLE BELIEF: EDUCATION SAVES LIVES.

WHO WE ARE

Purpose in Action

Light The Way is building a culture of boating and water safety through education, advocacy, public awareness, and collaboration.

Light The Way, Inc. is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization founded in memory of Ryan Britagna, Christopher Hallahan, and Ian following the Saybrook Breakwater boating accident on September 2, 2024. Their memory continues to guide an organization focused not only on remembrance, but on practical action that helps protect others.

We work alongside families, educators, first responders, public officials, boating organizations, businesses, volunteers, and community partners who share one goal: helping more people make safe decisions before an emergency occurs.

MISSION

Help more families return home safely after every day on the water.

STATUS

IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) public charity.

SERVICE AREA

Connecticut schools, communities, waterways, and public events.

APPROACH

Education, advocacy, awareness, partnerships, and practical safety initiatives.

WHY WE EXIST

Our Foundation

Light The Way began with loss, but its story is defined by what has been built since.

"Every family deserves to return home safely after every day on the water."

Following the accident, Jessica Britagna made a commitment that loss would not be the final chapter. She set out to create an organization dedicated to protecting others through education, awareness, advocacy, and community partnerships.

That commitment became Light The Way, a nonprofit organization founded on responsibility, resilience, and the belief that informed choices help save lives.

Today, the organization honors the lives of Ryan, Christopher, and Ian not only through remembrance, but through meaningful action. Every classroom presentation, every life jacket worn, every community partnership, and every effort to strengthen boating safety reflects a commitment to helping more families return home safely.

Light The Way is not defined by the tragedy that marked its beginning. It is defined by the work it carries forward each day, expanding education, strengthening partnerships, advancing boating safety, and helping build a future where more families return home safely after every day on the water.



JESSICA BRITAGNA

Founder & President

Jessica leads Light The Way with a focus on education, prevention, public awareness, and practical improvements that protect families throughout Connecticut.

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While no organization can change the past, every organization has the opportunity to shape the future. Light The Way is committed to creating lasting opportunities for education, awareness, and collaboration that empower individuals and communities to make safer choices on and around the water. Through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to prevention, Light The Way is helping build a future where more families return home safely after every day on the water.

Four Pathways to Safer Waterways

Meaningful change happens when education, advocacy, public awareness, and community action reinforce one another.



01

EDUCATION

School visits, youth programs, community presentations, educational resources, and family-focused outreach that make water safety understandable and memorable.

02

ADVOCACY

Collaboration with public officials, safety agencies, and boating leaders to advance practical policies and improvements that protect people on the water.

03

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Relationships with educators, first responders, marinas, businesses, volunteers, and local organizations that expand the reach and strength of the mission.

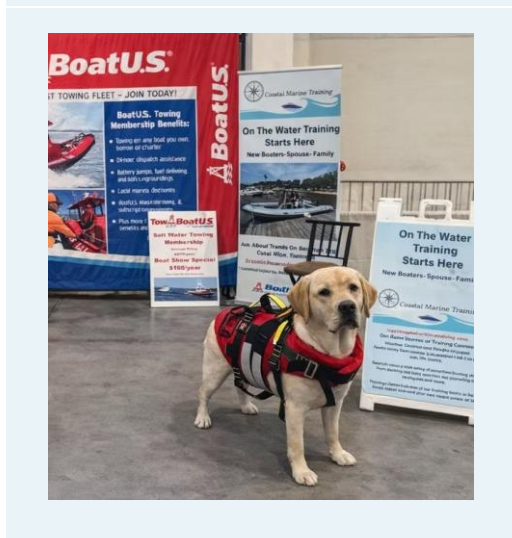
04

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Events, campaigns, media, and community engagement that encourage life-jacket use, responsible boating, preparedness, and shared responsibility.

Meet Bay

Connecticut's Water Safety Dog helps turn important safety lessons into moments children and families remember.



CONNECTICUT'S WATER SAFETY DOG

Bay is a trained outreach and facility dog whose presence makes water safety education welcoming, reassuring, and engaging.

She supports school and youth programs, community safety events, fundraisers, public gatherings, and outreach centered on education, healing, and prevention.

Formally recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly, Bay represents responsibility, resilience, compassion, and the power of connection.

When Bay puts on her life jacket, children pay attention. What might otherwise feel serious or intimidating becomes simple, warm, and memorable.

Through every interaction, a wagging tail can open the door to a conversation that may one day save a life.

Bay helps create meaningful connections that encourage questions, spark conversations, and make important safety lessons easier for children and families to remember. Her calm, approachable nature allows Light The Way to engage audiences in a way that is welcoming, memorable, and uniquely effective.

Whether visiting a classroom, attending a community event, or meeting families along Connecticut's shoreline, Bay serves as an ambassador for boating safety and a reminder that education can be both engaging and impactful. Through every interaction, she helps reinforce the simple habits that make time on the water safer for everyone.

“If Bay helps even one child remember to wear a life jacket, then she is already making our waterways safer.” J. Britagna

From Advocacy to Action

Light The Way is a young organization, but its early work demonstrates what can happen when a community unites around prevention.

NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY

Advocated for improved lighting and navigational awareness at the Saybrook Breakwater and supported safety improvements at other Connecticut locations.

BOATING SAFETY REFORM

Worked alongside legislators, state agencies, and community partners to support meaningful boating safety reforms in Connecticut, including legislation linking Boating Under the Influence (BUI) offenses with Driving Under the Influence (DUI) penalties.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Expanded water safety conversations through schools, libraries, community programs, public events, and family-focused education.

A GROWING COALITION

Built relationships with educators, first responders, businesses, boating organizations, volunteers, public officials, and supporters across Connecticut.

These milestones matter, but they are not presented as an endpoint. They are the foundation for broader education, deeper partnerships, and innovative approaches that can strengthen boating safety for years to come.

The Future of Boating Safety

A vision for immersive education that prepares people before an emergency happens.



**BECAUSE THE BEST RESCUE
IS THE ONE THAT NEVER HAS TO HAPPEN.**

Light The Way is exploring the development of advanced boating safety education and simulation opportunities designed to help boaters, students, first responders, and families build knowledge and confidence in a controlled learning environment.

The vision includes realistic training in navigation, changing weather, emergency decision-making, rescue scenarios, and other real-world conditions. The goal is not simply to teach rules, but to help people practice judgment, preparation, and response before those skills are needed on the water.



LEARN
Build knowledge through practical education.



PRACTICE
Experience realistic scenarios safely.



PREPARE
Develop confidence before emergencies occur.

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This initiative represents a long-term vision. It will grow through planning, partnerships, philanthropy, and the support of individuals and organizations willing to help build a lasting educational resource for future generations.

BE PART OF THE MISSION

Help Light The Way Forward

Every supporter strengthens an organization working to make safety education more visible, accessible, and effective.

DONATE

Support education, outreach, public awareness, and future safety initiatives.

PARTNER

Bring together schools, businesses, public agencies, and community organizations.

INVITE US

Welcome Light The Way and Bay to a school, library, event, or community program.

SPONSOR

Help fund events, programs, educational materials, and community engagement.

VOLUNTEER

Share your time, expertise, relationships, and belief in the mission.

ADVOCATE

Help make boating and water safety part of the conversation in every community.

LIGHT THE WAY, INC.

saybrookbreakwater.com

Connecticut-based 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN 33-3024357



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Thank you for helping Light The Way build a safer future on Connecticut's waters.

Building a Safer Future, One Family at a Time.

Thank you for supporting Light The Way.

www.saybrookbreakwater.com