4-H$_2$0 Children Attend Summer Camp on Flotilla Island

LAKE MURRAY, S.C.- Water education, summer camp, and Lake Murray, S.C., provided a winning combination For twenty 4-H2O members ages 10 to 12. Auxiliary Operational Facilities escorted campers from a public launch site to Flotilla Island for the start of a week long summer camp program on June 15, 2009. Flotilla Island is located on a peninsula at Lake Murray, the shared home to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 and the United States Power Squadron.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service sponsors the 4-H2O Pontoon Classroom to promote water quality and water education programs. For a week in June, 4-H2O kids discover the mysteries and practicalities of water resources, water management and marine life and environments. While they enjoy water sports and recreation, they learn boating safety, the history of the lake and its continuing value as a water resource. The lake is their paradise.

Divided into small groups, the kids rotated through six instruction stations located at dockside and in classrooms. Flotilla 12-3 Auxiliarists enthusiastically offered instruction in life jacket use, radio communications, vessel safety equipment and boating safety. On this morning, Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Sea Tow and the U.S. Weather Service joined Flotilla 12-3 in the water education program. Popularity of the Sheriff's water canon was challenged only by the whistles handed out by the Auxiliary!

Besides having a lot of fun with the kids, the Auxiliary introduced these future boaters to some important safe boating fundamentals.

After all, it's all about the water!

LAKE MURRAY, S.C.- Auxiliarist Kent McCoin teaches radio communications to one group of children as they rotate through the various stations of Pontoon Classroom..

LAKE MURRAY, S.C.- Auxiliarist Burnette Sheffied, Flotilla Vice Commander 12-3, emphasizes the proper use of life jackets.