



Our Story

The AustinBlu Foundation was formed in 2015, in the wake of a tragedy involving two young boaters from Jupiter, Florida, who were lost at sea on July 24th, 2015. Austin Blu Stephanos was one of those boys and the namesake of this foundation.

The boys virtually grew up on the water; boating, fishing, diving or swimming nearly every day. They worked at a tackle shop together and immersed themselves in the salt-life of the ocean. This Foundation is rooted in Austin's lifelong love of the sea and his desire to share that love and enjoy the beauty and excitement of the ocean at every possible opportunity. Austin's life story is as much a love story as a cautionary tale. The ocean was the love of his life; the lesson of his life is to take every precaution when enjoying the majesty, beauty and power of our oceans.

We respectfully ask that you join us in our efforts to help more people safely experience the majesty, beauty and power of our oceans.



Accomplishments

- * Funding over 1,000 people's boating safety classes with 5 active learning locations: Fort Lauderdale, Riviera, Jupiter, Stuart and Vero Beach.
- * Hosted over 40 outreach events throughout the state.
- * Passed the FL State Beacon Bill which allows boaters who carry a beacon onboard an annual discount of 25% off their Boater's registration.
- * Partnered with the largest beacon manufacturer in the U.S.
- * Launched "make your mark" lifejacket program.



Goals

- * Pass the Beacon Bill on a Federal level coupled with giving an IRS discount for the tax year the beacon was purchased.
- * Develop corporate social responsibility partnerships with more maritime companies and likeminded organizations.
- * Continue funding area classes while also reaching out into other key areas in the state.
- * Partner with school systems to implement marine industry career training.
- * Working on additional legislation to further incentivize boater's safety.



Support

Corporate and individual donations are very much appreciated and will be invested wisely.

Here is where your dollars could go:



Lifejacket Loaner Station

This is a stand with various size lifejackets which could be placed in key areas for boater's to borrow. These jackets are for extra guests or anyone who may have forgot theirs. The approximate cost per station is \$3,500.



Boating Safety Classes

These are classes given by Coast Guard Auxiliary members throughout Florida. A donation of \$600 will sponsor a class of 30 to 50 students of all ages. A donation of \$6,000 can sponsor year-round classes at a location of your choosing.



Tag Your Gift

Legislation. Education. Technology. These are the 3 overall areas the Foundation focuses on and has ongoing projects of which could always use support. Semi annual updates on each category can be found on our website.



Florida Boating

Why what we do is SO important to Florida Boating:

With two coastlines and year-round boating, Florida, the home state of the AustinBlu Foundation, is commonly referred to as the “boating capital of the U.S.” and, sometimes, of the world. There are over 900,000 registered boats just in Florida. Not even 60% of Florida's boat operators have taken a boating safety course. On average, there are more boating deaths in Florida every year.

Source USCG office of boating safety.

Boating's economic impact on Florida:

The boating industry is also an important part of the state's economy, with a total economic impact of over \$10 billion dollars a year. There are also over 5,500 businesses which employ over 55,000 people. We want to support and promote this industry that means so much to our home state and its people.

Source National Marine Manufacturer's Association.



SCAN TO GIVE



THE FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO RAISING AWARENESS AND PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE BOATER SAFETY.

We will work to make available to boaters of all ages the tools and technology which can help prevent near-shore and offshore boating accidents and improve the chances for survival and recovery, should such accident occur. In addition, we are committed to supporting legislation which will incentivize boaters to take advantage of the education programs and technology that can make recreational boating and water sports safer for all to enjoy.