

Newport Youth Showcase Accomplishments at Boat Launch Ceremony on August 17

Newport (R.I.) -- Newport youth graduating from the **Youth Summer Boatbuilding Program** coordinated by the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA) will showcase their accomplishments at a boat launch ceremony on Thursday, August 17 at 10:00 AM.

This six-week boatbuilding course is designed for 14- to 16-year-olds and incorporates hands-on skill building, marine-trades career exploration, leadership development and adult mentoring.

The launch on August 17 is one of many launchings that are taking place in August throughout the state.

RIMTA's Youth Summer Boatbuilding Program started out with one program; with support from Real Jobs Rhode Island and the Governor's Workforce Board, RIMTA was able to work with area schools this summer and expand into five programs, run in North Providence (two programs), Newport, Bristol and Tiverton.

That program growth illustrates the momentum RIMTA is gaining in their efforts to expose more young Rhode Islanders to careers in the marine trades and to ultimately cultivate the workforce needed to fuel the state's marine industry.

Trends such as a graying manufacturing workforce and fewer students gravitating to hands-on careers have impacted the marine-trades workforce throughout the entire country—a trend that RIMTA is rectifying with this program and [others run for different age groups and skill areas.](#)

Students in each of the summer programs get hands-on experience building boats, and each program has opted to build a different type of watercraft.

In Newport, under the guidance of IYRS graduate Matt Gooding, working with former IYRS instructor Kevin McKiernan, students built two GO-ZO prams from [ZO Boats](#) created by Aquidneck Custom Composites and Walworth Yacht Designs.

More details on the August 17 launch are below.

WHAT:

RIMTA Youth Summer Boatbuilding Program – Newport Boat Launch

WHEN:

Thursday, August 17 / 10:00 AM

WHERE:

Fort Adams State Park Beach, Newport, R.I.

PROGRAM COORDINATORS AND SUPPORTERS: The Youth Summer Boatbuilding Program is coordinated by the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association and supported by Real Jobs Rhode Island and the Governor’s Workforce Board.