

Did you know...

An estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to unintentional drowning-related incidents each year?

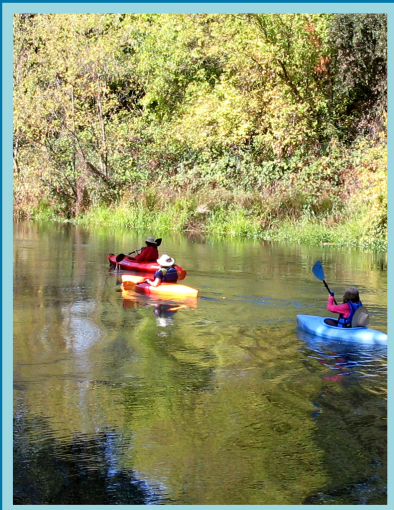
Of all pre-schoolers who drown, 70% are in the care of one or both parents at the time of drowning and 75% are missing from sight for five minutes or less?

Swimming lessons do not prepare a child for a drowning or near drowning situation?

The majority of children who survive (92%) are discovered within two minutes following submersion, and most children who die (86%) are found after 10 minutes?

In 2006 over half of near drowning victims were between the ages of 11 and 30?

Near drownings can cause serious brain damage including memory problems, and permanent, severe learning and/or neurological disabilities?



***The San Joaquin County
Kids Don't Float program
is a joint effort of the following
agencies:***

California Waste Recovery Systems

Clements Fire District

East Bay Municipal Utility District

First Five San Joaquin

Mayaco

MokelumneRiver.com

Mokelumne River Outfitters

***San Joaquin County
Department of Parks and Recreation***

United States Coast Guard



Brochure printing courtesy of Duncan Press



How we started...

On April 19, 2009, sixteen year-old Cody Ray Scanlon was rafting on the Mokelumne River when he fell asleep, slipped off his air mattress, and drowned. He was not wearing a life preserver. Friends of Cody, Crystal Nickels of Lockeford, and Alan Maclsaac of Acampo made the suggestion that life preservers should be available to people using the Mokelumne River. Through this grass roots effort the San Joaquin County Kids Don't Float program was born!

During the next several months, San Joaquin County Department of Parks and Recreation, Clements Fire District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, California Waste Recovery Systems, Mokelumne River Outfitters, and the United States Coast Guard combined forces to bring the program to fruition.

A one-time \$750 grant from First Five San Joaquin was obtained to purchase life preservers.

In December 2009, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance requiring children under the age of 13 wear a life preserver when accessing any public waterway in San Joaquin County. Responsible parents and/or guardians found to be in violation of the ordinance may be fined up to \$250.

Currently, park users may take advantage of the program by using life preservers at the Mokelumne River Day Use Park, Stillman Magee Park, or Clements Fire Station. Park users are asked to return the life preservers to any of the three above listed locations.

A Mother's Story...



On July 18, 2009, I received a call from my babysitter, notifying me that my daughter was in the emergency room at St. Joseph's Hospital in Stockton in critical condition. She had been a victim of what paramedics called a "near drowning". She was quickly life-flighted to Oakland Children's Hospital. Much to my dismay, I discovered that just because she survived the near drowning did not mean she was out of danger. I was faced with the reality she could suffer from possible permanent neurological damage, physical damage or both. It was the longest forty-eight hours of my life waiting to hear what her future would hold. We were lucky, we were so very lucky. She is fine and does not remember anything about the experience.

My daughter will never again be around water without her life preserver. That is my message to you. It only takes an instant for tragedy to strike. This type of tragedy can be avoided. My wish is that you take from my story the wisdom to always take the time to put your child in a life preserver when they are in or near the water.

Through this wonderful program, if you don't have a life preserver, you can borrow one - for free. Nothing is more important than keeping our children safe!

How you can help...

We are currently in need of and accepting donations of either funds or life preservers to keep the San Joaquin County Kids Don't Float program going and expanding to other public water recreational areas in the future.

Cash donations are accepted. Checks may be made payable to:

***Clements Fire District
P.O. Box 523
Clements, CA 95227***

There is also a need for new or gently-used life preservers. If you wish to contribute, life preservers may be dropped off at:

***Clements Fire District
18901 East Highway 88, Clements***

For more information on the San Joaquin County Kids Don't Float program, please visit:

***www.sjgov.org
www.mokelumneriver.com
www.clementsfire.org***

or call

***Clements Fire District 209-759-3371
San Joaquin County
Parks and Recreation 209-953-3510***

