

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to more than 15,000 lakes, over 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, and approximately 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, as well as the Waterpark Capital of the World in Wisconsin Dells; and

WHEREAS; whether natural or manufactured, Wisconsin's waterways and water attractions are vast and valuable resources enjoyed by many, and swimming and water-related activities are major sources of recreation and enjoyment for Wisconsinites and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS; swimming and water-related activities play a vital role in promoting good physical and mental health for all Wisconsinites, encouraging time together with friends and family, bolstering the outdoor recreational economy, and providing safe places for individuals of all ages and abilities to learn, play, exercise, build self-esteem, and make memories; and

WHEREAS; robust and early water safety education is critical to preventing drownings and other water-related accidents and injuries, especially for kids, and the state of Wisconsin recognizes the ongoing efforts and commitments by the recreational water industry to develop safe facilities and educate the public on water safety; and

WHEREAS; individuals can practice water safety by exercising caution, communicating and understanding water safety rules, obeying warning signs, being alert to rapidly changing water conditions, and wearing personal flotation or assistive devices; and

WHEREAS; from owners of private pools and users of public swimming facilities to visitors of spas, waterparks, state parks, or any of Wisconsin's numerous lakes and rivers, it is important that all Wisconsinites prioritize safety and caution when in and around water; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the recreational water industry in promoting the safe recreational use of water year-round and urges Wisconsinites of all ages to exercise caution in the water and understand the importance of following water safety rules, both for their own health and safety and for the health and safety of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 23rd day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State