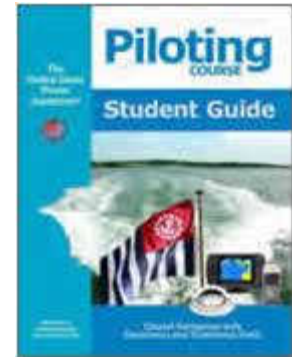


Piloting

Length: 10 Sessions

Cost:

Piloting is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation for recreational boats and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to navigate even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten sessions normally are scheduled, with optional lab sessions added as needed.



Topics covered include:

- Latitude, longitude, magnetic and true north
- Charts and their interpretation, how to use them on my boat
- Navigation aids and how they relate to safe water
- Planning and plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- Principles of dead reckoning, how to use when underway
- Converting from true to magnetic, correcting for compass error
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information, setting waypoints and routes
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress underway and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques
- The “Seaman’s Eye” – helpful techniques for checking that one is on course