

SCENARIO:

LAKE POPULATION CHANGES

(PART 1 – PREVENTION)

surfergh130

Setting the scene

The lake community is seeing more vacationers. How can you best involve shorter-term visitors in lake stewardship goals, so that you ensure a healthy lake ecosystem?

As a group, read the scenario below, then **discuss**:

5 minutes: How might renters interact with the lake?

5 minutes: What actions could you take to help renters care for the lake during their stay?

Record your thoughts to share with the group.

Scenario

Your family has been going to the same lake house for vacation since your grandparents were children. You know your neighbors and you get together for a boat parade every Fourth of July. Until this summer, the only rental property on the lake was a resort owned by the Jones family. You just learned that one of your neighbors will be renting their home as an Airbnb.

Consider

- Imagine that for some of the renters, this may be their first time staying on a lake. What sorts of things should they know to help protect the lake, and its plants and wildlife?
- How could your organization make visitors feel welcome, while teaching them the basics of lake stewardship, so they can protect the lake as they enjoy it?
- What are some common mistakes that lake users make that are harmful to the ecosystem? (Remember that not everyone is as familiar with lake health as you are, so this might be brand new information.)
- What are some best practices for boating, fishing, and other forms of lake recreation that could be helpful for renters to know?

Consider wildlife protection, preventing spread of invasive species, and maintaining important shoreline habitats.