

Kayaking Standards

Kayaking activities grades 9-12
Only flat-water kayaking is permitted

NOTE: KAYAKING ON MOVING WATER IS PROHIBITED AT ALL GRADE LEVELS

General Standards

- Flat-water kayak activities suggested for Grades 9-12; day and multi-day trip activities suggested for Grades 9-12.
- All kayak tripping activities must be scheduled in water terrain designated 'level 1 or 2' in the Sea Kayak Guide Association of BC (SKGABC) guidelines.
- A hazard inventory with risk assessment including mitigation documentation must be completed for any overnight kayak trip, and reviewed on a three (3) year cycle.
- All terrain assessment documentation must be available for each kayak tripping area used.
- Daily trip log documentation and evaluation is required.
- Be aware of Methyl Hydrate Wilderness First-Aid protocol for ingestion treatment.
- Consider the use of a commercial service provider to lead open water kayak trips.

Equipment

- For trailer management:
 - Kayaks must be secured for transportation to ensure that both lateral and forward movement is minimized, and to ensure that the kayaks are not damaged.
 - Trailer haul speeds must be continually monitored for safety, particularly on washboard surfaces such as South Canal Road, Atlin Road and the Takhini River Road.
- All participants must wear properly fitting, federally approved PFD with a whistle when on the water. PFDs must be red, orange or yellow only.
- A tested satellite phone in a waterproofcase with appropriate emergency phone numbers is required.
- All trip leaders must carry personal survival kits including waterproof matches/lighter and a fire starter
- Each kayak must be equipped with a 15 meter throwing line, a bilge pump in each cock-pit, a water- proof flashlight, spray decks and deck lines.
- Each leader must have a paddle float.
- Each group of 3 double kayaks must have a spare paddle.



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- Each individual must have a full water bottle, suitable layers of heat retentive and wind resistant clothing, sun hat, toque, gloves, eye and skin protection and sunglasses. Additional water- proof clothing is also required.
- Protective footwear must be worn at all times.

Instructions

Pool session(s) to cover water awareness:

- Swimming, treading water, huddle strategies. Wet exits/no spray deck/with spray deck.
- Each program must be planned to include contingency plans for inclement weather, behavioral issues and medical evacuations.
- Program activities must be grade and skill level appropriate.
- Refer to the approval process in the [Off-site experiential learning policy](#) material.
- Students should demonstrate the following skills (clothed and wearing a PFD):
 - swim 25 meters continuously,
 - tread water for 3 minutes,
 - wet exit'and
 - kayak with and without a spray skirt attached.

Before kayaking, students should demonstrate skills:

- Kayak history, basic kayak safety, kayak design and terminology and selection.
- Proper use of equipment, cockpit adjustments for proper fit, foot pegs and seat.
- Recognition of hypothermia, hyperthermia and hyponatremia.
- Proper clothing for the conditions.
- Emergency signals and procedures.

Before kayak trips students must receive instructions on calm, flat-such as:

- seating position in the cockpit,
- paddle selection and use,
- entry and exit, dock shoreline and shoreline with wave action,
- basic stability for double kayaks,
- touching brace, high and low,
- turning strokes;and



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- forward and reverse strokes.

Supervision

- All kayak activities will have a 6:1 student/leader ratio. Minimum of two leaders are required with three leaders on expeditions.
- Fully completed Medical Forms (Appendix 6) are required for all participants.
- Current First Aid certification is required, and where appropriate, Wilderness First Aid.

Kayak instruction and trips:

- One leader with recognized kayak leadership course, or equivalent.
- Students in double kayaks.
- Leader(s) in single kayaks.
- Medical coverage.
- Communications system.

Day and multi-day trips:

- Ocean and large lake venues such as Haines, Alaska area, Atlin Lake, Lake LaBerge, Tagish, Bennett, Marsh, Aishihik, Sekulmen, Ethel Kluane) need to be assessed by the Offsite Review Committee prior to approval.
- SKGABC ocean terrain assessment system.
- Minimum leadership capacity recognized by SKGABC/ACSKG/CFOKE or equivalent.
- One leader with current venue experience and leaders are required in front of, behind and beside groups.
- Easy voice communication/space between leader boats.
- Night, pre-dawn and pre-dusk paddling prohibited, unless for emergency evacuation.

