



KEEPING YOUR PADDLING (CANOE/KAYAK) EXPERIENCE FUN AND SAFE



• • • • • A Checklist from the U.S. Coast Guard and this Company • • • • •

Preparation/Float Plan

- I will plan ahead of time where I am going and will let someone on shore know about my float plan.
- I will give myself more time to return on my trip than when I go out and will not attempt any trip that will be too long for my physical condition.

Planning

- I will plan for unexpected immersion in the water, and understand it is a good idea to bring extra clothes in a plastic bag, as well as extra drinking water, sunscreen, snacks, sunglasses, a hat, and a safety whistle.
- I understand I am encouraged to bring some means of communication with me on my paddling trip, such as a cell phone in a plastic bag or a portable VHF-FM radio.
- I understand that it is important to wear shoes while paddling, in case of the need for portaging my vessel.

Life Jackets

- I will make sure that each passenger has a properly-fitted, USCG approved life jacket that is of the proper size for the intended wearer, is in good and serviceable condition (including straps and zippers) and properly stowed.
- I understand that the U.S. Coast Guard recommends that I always wear a lifejacket while underway on a boat.

Boarding/Seating

- When boarding my vessel, I will stay low, keep my shoulders inside the gunwales, and keep my knees bent, always maintaining three points of contact with the vessel.
- I will sit only on the seats positioned centrally in the vessel. I understand that sitting on the sides of the canoe may cause it to capsize.

Boat Traffic

- In order to prevent capsizing, if a wave is heading my direction while underway, I understand the best course of action is to turn the bow of the vessel into the wave so that I don't take the wave broadside.
- I understand the safest way to cross the path of a powerboat is to do so astern, or behind the vessel.
- I will be courteous and mindful of the stopping distances of other vessels in the water

Flashlights/Whistles

- If I paddle at night, I will have a white light, such as a flashlight, with me on board. If other vessels are in my vicinity, I will display this light to ensure the other vessel sees me to prevent potential collision.
- I will carry a whistle or other sound signal on board with me so that I can make appropriate sound signals when needed.

Navigation Aids

- I have been made aware of any buoys, markers, and lights I may encounter on my journey and will pay attention to their significance on the water so as to avoid potential hazards.

Capsizing

- If my vessel tips over, I understand the best course of action is stay calm, remaining with my boat (if possible) and then paddle or swim it to shore if I am close to the shore, with the boat downstream from myself.

Crossing Channels

- If I cross a channel, I understand the best method is to cross at a right angle to the waterway in order to reduce my time in the crossing.

Drinking and Boating

- I will not drink and boat. I understand that paddling and alcohol do not mix and that the operation of ANY vessel while intoxicated is dangerous and against local, state, and federal laws.
- I also understand that the effects of alcohol while paddling may be increased due to heat and movement on the water.

Shallow Water

Is the water level below 5'? If so, be aware of shallow water areas.

Signed

Date