



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.

Signed

Date