

Prepare to Paddle Safely

PFD TYPES

TYPE 1: Intended for offshore use. Because of their bulk, they are not recommended for paddlers.



TYPE 2: Near-shore buoyancy vests. They are not recommended for paddlers.



TYPE 3: Flotation Aid. They are recommended for paddlers.



TYPE 4: Throwable devices. These are not required on canoes or kayaks and are not to be used as substitutes for life jackets.



TYPE 5: These are special use life jackets. They may be appropriate and recommended for certain uses by paddlers.



Read the life jacket's label. The right fit provides the right flotation. Remember, it doesn't work if you don't wear it!

Know Before You Go!

Know the waters you plan to float.

Changes in weather can affect your trip.



Let others know about your float trip by leaving a float plan.

What waters do you expect to paddle and are you prepared?

Best Paddling Practices

Pay Attention!

STAY ALERT and be ready to move out of danger.

It's important to be aware of your surroundings, especially if you encounter powerboats.

STAY VISIBLE because others may not see you.

HORN

WHISTLE

FLASHLIGHT

Be Considerate of Others

SHARE THE WATER:

Give others the room they need to enjoy the waters.

Keep the scene clean and pick-up litter.

Never Boat Under the Influence

While paddling can be easy, it's no excuse to paddle under the influence. Paddling a kayak or canoe requires a responsible, safe, and aware operator. Don't blur that operation with alcohol and drugs.

A group of paddlers is safer, but this should not become a drinking party!



Boarding and Re-entry

Boarding

Be a steady influence on your partner!

Keep at least three points of contact and stay low for balance.

Capsizing while ON the water can put you IN the water, so...

Practice Re-entry

If shore is too far away... your buddies can help you empty and... re-enter your boat.

Although you may intend to be IN your canoe or kayak...

Plan to Get Wet!

Expect the unexpected and know what to do if you find yourself IN the water. Stay calm and stay with the boat.

If you fall out in current, keep your feet on the surface and swim to shore.



In most cases, getting wet or swamping your boat is no reason to end your trip.



Just dump the water out, re-enter and you're on your way.