

# KAYAKING TOURING SAFETY ESSENTIALS



## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Wear a lifejacket
- Be a competent swimmer
- Take a class / obtain the knowledge
- Boating alone is discouraged
- Know how to self-rescue
- File a float-plan
- Have the proper equipment
- Match your abilities to the venue
- Practice Leave No Trace outdoor ethics
- Paddle Safe, Paddle Smart and Know Your Limits

## RESCUE EQUIPMENT

Part of your first line of defense is the knowledge, skills, ability and equipment you bring with you on your trip.

A lifejacket, towline, aerial flares, paddle float, VHF radio, whistle, white light, and even your cell phone can aid in yours and others rescue.

*Check with the appropriate State agency regarding state equipment requirements for a boat of your type and length.*



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# SHARE THE WATERWAYS

## PRACTICE DEFENSIVE BOATING

For the kayaker, defensive boating is preventing collisions and mishaps in spite of actions of others and the conditions around you. Defensive boating is simply avoiding other boaters and where they should travel. In addition, travelling outside the main channel and closer to shore is often more scenic.

## SEE AND BE SEEN

Wear bright colored apparel and lifejackets. Use reflective tape and a white light in reduced visibility. Carry and use a fog horn or whistle. In fog situations, sound the signal to indicate your location every two minutes. Travel in groups

## SELECT A ROUTE THAT AVOIDS OTHER BOATS

Anticipate where larger boats will travel and avoid these places. Travel outside of the channel or close to shore when the channel extends from bank to bank. Avoid cutting corners that require crossing channels and when crossing a channel, go straight across or at a right angle to the channel.

## KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER BOATS

Scan the waterway and determine where other boats are. Avoid those places.

## RED - RIGHT - RETURNING

Navigation Channels are marked with red (triangular shaped) and green (square shaped) markers. When returning to the port or harbor, the red marker is found on the right of the channel. These markers indicate the main channel used by larger boats.

## KNOW AND FOLLOW THE NAVIGATION RULES

For a complete listing of the navigation rules, refer to the document "Navigation Rules of the Road" published by the U.S. Coast Guard (COMDTINST 16672.2 Series) and available on the web at [www.navcan.uscg.gov](http://www.navcan.uscg.gov). For State specific navigation requirements, refer to the state laws where you intend to boat.



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