



Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring

Instructor Criteria

Overview: Fundamentally, we expect that participants will have the paddling skills, technical knowledge, rescue ability, teaching ability, group management, and interpersonal skills commensurate with this level of certification prior to presenting themselves for evaluation as Instructor Candidates at an Instructor Certification Exam (ICE).

Note: These criteria may be used for both spray skirted kayaks, as well as non-spray skirted kayaks. Criteria/skills not applicable to non-spray skirted kayaks are followed by the footnote notation: ¹.

Bulkheads are not required, however, some form of flotation must be present to keep the kayak from sinking.

Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC):

ACA courses are open to all individuals who acknowledge the ability to perform the following essential eligibility criteria.

1. Breathe independently (i.e., not require medical devices to sustain breathing)
2. Independently maintain sealed airway passages while under water
3. Independently hold head upright without neck / head support
4. Manage personal care independently or with assistance of a companion
5. Manage personal mobility independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance
6. Follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with assistance of a companion
7. Independently turn from face-down to face-up and remain floating face up while wearing a properly fitted life jacket*
8. Get on / off or in / out of a paddlecraft independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
9. Independently get out and from under a capsized paddlecraft*
10. Remount or reenter the paddlecraft following deep water capsize independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
11. Maintain a safe body position while attempting skills, activities and rescues listed in the appropriate Course Outline, and have the ability to recognize and identify to others when such efforts would be unsafe given your personal situation*

** To participate in adaptive programs, participants must acknowledge only the first six EEC listed above. Entry-level adaptive programs will involve teaching and practicing EEC #7-11.*



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Course Prerequisites: Completion of the appropriate level skills course, assessment course, or equivalent skills.

Course Duration: Combined IDW and ICE - Minimum 3 days (24 hours)

Course Location / Venue: Calm, protected water with constant access to safe landing and within .5 nm from shore:

- Winds less than 10 knots
- Waves less than 1 foot (0.3 meters)
- Current less than 1 knot
- No surf - shore break less than 1 ft (0.3 meters)

Class Ratio: 5 Instructor Candidates : 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant the ratio can be 10 : 2

Succeeding Levels of Certification

Level 3: Coastal Kayaking Instructor

Note: The use of non-spray skirted kayaks in conditions above Level 2 is not appropriate.

The following is a list of the criteria used to evaluate Instructor Candidates. The content and sequence of evaluation should be adjusted to best fit the participant's needs, class location and time allowance.

General Requirements for all Instructor Certifications:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Meet the appropriate essential eligibility criteria
- Successfully complete an Instructor Certification Workshop (IDW and ICE)
- Be a full ACA member
- Upon successful completion, register with the Safety Education and Instruction Council
- Have and maintain first aid and age appropriate CPR
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately perform and teach all the following material unassisted in the appropriate venue

Maintenance Requirements:

- Teach at least two courses, one must be an L2 level course, that meet ACA standards within the four-year certification period and report the results to the National Office
- Complete an Instructor Update, at the highest level of certification, during the four-year certification period
- Maintain ACA membership and SEIC registration annually



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Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring Instructor Requirements:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of ACA paperwork:
 - How to register and report a course (with and without insurance)
 - An understanding of the ACA Waiver and Release of Liability
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of:
 - Teaching theory
 - Learning theory
 - Effective methods of providing feedback
3. Demonstrate the following:
 - Positive interpersonal skills
 - Appropriate group management skills (including leadership and judgment)
 - Ability to choose an appropriate venue / class site
4. The ability to teach and model the basic kayak paddle strokes and maneuvers effectively. This includes:
 - Forward stroke, to propel the kayak straight forward
 - Reverse/back stroke, to stop and reverse straight backward
 - Forward and reverse sweeps, to turn and/or spin the kayak
 - Draw and sculling draw, to move the kayak sideways evenly
 - Rudder (stern) to glide straight and turn to paddle side
 - Low brace to avoid capsize
 - Low brace turn
5. Demonstrate the ability to teach and model basic rescue techniques effectively:
 - Controlled capsize and effectively wet exit kayak with a spray skirt¹
 - Skirted wet exits must be modeled and taught two ways: (1) utilizing the spray skirt grab loop and (2) releasing the skirt off the hip.\
 - T-rescue
 - Side-by-side
 - Rafted-T
 - Scoop¹
 - Paddle float with and without sling
 - Unresponsive paddler rescue
 - Bulldoze kayak to shore
 - Swim rescue: swim to shore (25 yards/meters) in full paddling gear and drain boat
 - Contact towing
 - In-line towing (demonstrate only)
6. Demonstrate knowledge of, and ability to teach, the following effectively:
 - Safety issues and hazards of flat-water kayaking
 - Weather and tide conditions important to the kayaker



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- Cold water shock, hypothermia, and hyperthermia; prevention and treatment
 - Signaling devices and safety equipment including VHF radios
 - Boat traffic safe practice, maps, charts, float plan
 - Kayak nomenclature and design
 - Kayak paddle fit, hand placement and design
 - Safety equipment: paddle float, pump, sling
7. Demonstrate ability to paddle and perform rescues effectively and efficiently in L2 venue/conditions.
 8. Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience and judgment necessary to be a safe, effective instructor.

¹Skills not required for those participants paddling a kayak without a spray skirt.

Successful candidates using a boat without a spray skirt during this course, will be certified to teach non-spray skirted kayaks only.