



Level 2: Essentials of River Canoeing

Skills Assessment

Assessment Overview: This ACA Assessment Course is designed to evaluate a participant's ability to perform all of the skills listed along with demonstrating an appropriate level of knowledge. This assessment course provides the participant with the opportunity to receive documentation of having achieved a certain level of paddling ability.

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.*

Course Prerequisites: Must be an ACA Member

Course Duration: 1 or more days

Course Location / Venue: Moving water on rivers up to and including class I sections

Class Ratio: **Tandem:** 6 Students : 1 Instructor; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant the ratio can be 12 : 2

Solo: 5 Students : 1 Instructor; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant the ratio can be 10:2



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Succeeding courses:

- Level 3: River Canoeing
- Level 4: Whitewater Canoeing
- Level 5: Advanced Whitewater Canoeing

The sequence of assessment should be adjusted to best fit the participant's needs, class location and time allowance.

Introduction, Expectations, & Logistics:

- Welcome, introductions, paperwork
- Student & instructor course expectations and limitations
- Explain assessment procedure
- Course itinerary & site logistics
- Review waiver, assumption of risk, challenge by choice, medical disclosure
- About the ACA
- PFD policy (always wear on water)
- Appropriate personal behavior
- No alcohol / substance abuse
- Proper etiquette on & off the water
- Respect private property
- Practice Leave No Trace ethics

Conclusion & Wrap Up:

- Group debrief / Individual feedback
- Course limitations
- Importance of First Aid & CPR
- Importance of additional instruction, practice, experience
- Importance of appropriate level of safety & rescue training
- Life sport / Paddling options
- Local paddling groups / Clubs
- Handouts / Reference materials
- ACA Membership forms
- Course evaluation
- Assessment cards (if applicable)



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Participant: _____ **ACA #** _____ **Date:** _____

Quiet water location and venue: _____

Rating: ✓ - *Passing* N - *Needs more practice.*

Participant must be able to perform all strokes, maneuvers, rescues, and skills in the appropriate venue. In addition the participant must demonstrate the appropriate level of knowledge for this skill assessment level.

STROKES	Bow	Stern	Solo	COMMENTS
Forward				
Forward w/Rudder				
Forward w/Stern Pry				
Forward w/J Stroke				
Back				
Draw				
Bow Draw				
Cross Bow Draw				
Stern Draw				
Push Away				
Pry				
Stern Pry				
Sweeps: Forward/Reverse				

Demonstrate good balance, posture and boat leans during all maneuvers

FLAT WATER MANEUVERS	Bow	Stern	Solo	COMMENTS
Forward: Straight 15-20 Boat Lengths				
Reverse: Reasonably Straight 3-4 Boat Lengths				
Stopping (Forward/Reverse): 2 Boat Lengths				
Spin: 360 degree pivot to onside & offside				
Abeam: Sideways both sides 10 FT w/o headway				
Turns: Figure 8 around markers 3-4 boat lengths apart				
Switch Positions in the canoe on water				
Launching and Landing: Low dock or bank to enter and exit safely				

MOVING WATER MANEUVERS	Bow	Stern	Solo	COMMENTS
Front Ferries: To a fixed point				
Eddy Turns: w/boat leans into wide eddies				
Peel-Outs				
C-Turns				
S-Turns				

RESCUE/SAFETY	P & N	COMMENTS
Understand the risks and dangers of moving water and how to avoid them		
Signals: Whistle, Paddle and Hand		



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Rescue Sequence: (RETHROG)	
Priorities: People, canoe, gear	
Responsibility: Individual, Group, Rescuer, Victim	
Cold Shock, Hypothermia, clothing	
Hyperthermia: hydration, clothing	
Emergency Procedures	
Safety Equipment	
Deep water exits: Vault and Slide performed in quiet water	
Controlled Capsize: Performed in deep moving water	
Self Rescue: Swim 25 FT to shore in moving water using defensive and offensive technique	
Towing a swimmer/canoe	
Swim a canoe 25 FT to shore	
Empty a canoe full of water at shore line	
Canoe over canoe rescue (T Rescue) on flat water	
Side by side (Parallel) on flat water	
Re-entry: Self & Assisted; Heel Hook, Sling on flat water	
Throw Rope: Rescuer must be able to throw a throw a rope to a swimmer at 30 ft. Demonstrate proper rope technique as a swimming victim.	
Portaging	
Basic Wading	

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE	P or N	COMMENTS
Environmental Issues: Leave No Trace etc, ecology		
Paddling Environment: 4 W's		
Personal Preparation: Planning, clothing, food and water		
Canoe: types, parts, materials		
Paddle: Types, parts, materials use		
Lifejacket: Types, materials, fit		
River Classifications (Understanding of Class 1-6)		
Concepts of Paddling (Moving Water)		
River Hydrology, features and hazards (Moving Water)		
Group Organization & Travel		
Strategies in river running (Moving Water)		
Scouting		
Canoe Carries: Overhead & Suitcase		
Canoe Trim		
Posture, Rocking, Balance		
Trip Planning: How to prepare a day trip		
Knots: Figure 8 or bowline, truckers hitch and 2 half hitches		
Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations		
Car Topping: Loading/Unloading (Use of straps and knots)		



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FINAL ASSESSMENT		COMMENTS
PASS	NEEDS MORE WORK	
ASSESSOR		
<i>Assessor must be a currently certified ACA Instructor at or above this level.</i>		
IT or Instructor: _____	Signature: _____	
ACA #: _____	Date: _____	