



# PADDLESPORTS SAFETY FACILITATOR

A paddling safety training and certification program designed for staff from outfitters, guide services, camps, youth groups, and more.

## ACA Paddlesports Safety Facilitator Program FAQs

### **What is the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator certification program?**

The Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) certification program teaches basic safety and paddling knowledge, as well as simple rescue skills for canoe, kayak, and SUP. The training for this certification includes a base knowledge module (non-discipline specific) plus three complementary modules that focus specifically on canoeing, kayaking, and SUP. This certification allows the facilitator to introduce paddlecraft safety and knowledge to the beginner paddler in a land-based setting.

### **Who are the target market(s) for the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator program?**

This course is appropriate for the staff of liveries, parks and recreation sites, rental companies, or guide services. The PSF course also is a suitable alternative for the discontinued *Small Craft Safety* course once offered by the American Red Cross. Therefore, other markets that will use the PSF program include summer camps, youth organizations (such as the YMCA, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Girl Scouts of the USA). The course can also be used for any member of the general public that wants to have a comprehensive knowledge base of on-water safety and best practices for enjoyable paddling.

### **How long is the PSF certification valid?**

The certification lasts for 1 calendar year from the course completion date. The course must be repeated in future years, if the holder wishes to maintain the certification. All Paddlesports Safety Facilitators must also be ACA members at the individual level.

### **Who can teach this PSF course and certify Paddlesports Safety Facilitators?**

Any ACA Instructor Trainer/Educator can offer the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator certification course within their currently certified discipline, as well as any Level 3 (or higher) ACA Instructor. Any Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor WITH THE PSF ENDORSEMENT can offer the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator certification course within their currently certified discipline.

### **If I am a Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor, how can I get the endorsement to teach PSF?**

Contact an Instructor Trainer or Educator to arrange for the PSF endorsement. This endorsement remains valid as long as your instructor certification is current.

### **Can I certify Paddlesports Safety Facilitators in a discipline I am not currently certified to teach?**

YES! All you need to do as a currently certified Instructor is to successfully complete a Level 1 (or higher) skills assessment in the desired discipline. For example, if you are currently a certified canoe instructor, able/endorsed to teach the PSF course, and have completed the formal ACA skills assessment in Kayak at level 1 (or higher), you can then offer the canoe AND kayak modules for PSF.

### **What do certified Paddlesports Safety Facilitators do?**

They provide safety material to clients, students, and the general public regarding safe boating practices, information on environmental/water hazards, and local/state/federal regulations. The certified PSFs also provide tips on proper techniques for transporting of gear; they assist students with safely entering and exiting their craft, and can assist in the rescue of someone who capsized near the launch site. The PSF does NOT provide leadership/guide services on the water, nor instruction on maneuvering the craft.