

## Sea Kayak Day Trips Checklist for Groups

### Equipment:

#### Each paddler has

- Kayak w/ flotation suited for route & conditions
- PFD, adjusted properly
- Whistle
- Paddle
- Spray skirt
- Spray jacket
- Extra clothing (fleece or polypro)
- Neoprene or wool hat
- Wet suit if cold water or long crossings are involved

#### Each kayak has

- Horn
- Flares
- Paddle float
- Pump
- Compass
- Chart / float plan
- Water
- Energy food
- Survival kit
- Flashlight / headlamp

#### Each buddy group has

- Walkie-talkie
- Spare paddle

#### Leaders / Guides have

- VHF radio
- Cell phone
- Binoculars
- GPS
- Repair kit
- First aid kit
- Towing lines & belts
- Weather radio
- Stirrup / rescue sling
- Signal mirror
- Extra hats
- Extra water
- Extra energy foods
- Sleeping bag
- Space blanket
- Thermos hot cocoa
- Containment system for human waste.

### Inventory skills of Group Members

- Entry
- Wet exit
- Re-entry
- Paddle grip, forward stroke, reverse stroke,
- Basic compass & chart skills
- Bracing
- Hips, knees, and feet for control; footrests
- Rafting up
- Towing, Being towed
- Boating traffic

### Route / Float Plan

- Copy of float plan with shore base
- Copy of float plan with vehicle
- Copy of float plan with each kayak
- Chart marked with route, bearings, distances, escape route(s)
- All paddlers know float plan
- All paddlers know weather forecast
- All paddlers know set and drift

## Safety Precautions & Procedures

### \_\_\_\_ Review Trip Rules:

- a. 60 second rule
- b. Buddy boat rule
- c. Bunch boat rule
- d. formation
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### \_\_\_\_ Review Signal System:

- a. *Attention / Maintain position / Wait where you are* = 1 whistle blast or paddle held horizontally above person's head
- b. *Reduce distance from bunch boat* = 2 whistle blasts
- c. *Come to me* = 3 whistle blasts
- d. *Come quickly / possible emergency* = 4 whistle blasts or paddle held vertically overhead and waved or both arms overhead and flapped
- f. *Emergency / Get to shore as quickly as possible* = 5 blasts

### \_\_\_\_ Review Missing Person Procedure:

If a paddler becomes separated from the group

- Missing paddler:
  - a. Stay calm
  - b. Use appropriate signals. Repeat every 30 – 60 seconds.
  - c. Use chart & compass to get oriented
  - d. Bow to wind and maintain position
  - e. Wait for leader or guide
  - f. Listen for signals from the group
  - g. Use flares only when other boat is within sight
- Leader / Guide:
  - a. Keep group together
  - b. Listen for signals from the missing kayaker.
  - c. Use appropriate signals. Repeat every 30 – 60 seconds.
  - d. Conduct search as group. If more than one leader / guide is present, one or more leader(s) may stay with the group while the other leader(s) conduct the search.
  - e. Use a rectangular search pattern with the long side of the rectangle in the direction of the set and drift.
  - f. Use VHF channel 16: enlist the Coast Guard and other craft if initial search results fail.