



Boy Scouts of America

Kayaking BSA

Requirements

1. Before fulfilling the following requirements, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Describe various types of kayaks and how they differ in design, materials, and purpose.
 - b. Name the parts of the kayak you are using for this exercise.
 - c. Demonstrate how to choose an appropriately sized kayak paddle and how to position your hands.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe trip afloat.
 - b. Demonstrate how to select and properly fit a life jacket.
 - c. Explain the importance of safety equipment such as life jackets, air bags, grab loops, and helmets.
4. Demonstrate your ability to aid yourself and others in the event of a capsize:
 - a. Capsize your kayak in water at least 7 feet deep, perform a wet exit if necessary, and swim the boat to shore.
 - b. With assistance, if needed, ready the capsized craft for use.
 - c. Show how to approach a capsized paddler in your kayak and tow him to shore.
 - d. While upright in your kayak, right a capsized kayak, empty it of water, and assist the paddler aboard without returning to shore.
5. As a solo paddler, demonstrate the following:
 - a. Entering and launching a kayak from shore or dock
 - b. Landing or docking and exiting a kayak
 - c. Forward stroke
 - d. Sweep stroke
 - e. Reverse sweep
 - f. Draw stroke
 - g. Rudder stroke
 - h. Back stroke
6. As a solo paddler, do the following:
 - a. Paddle forward in a reasonably straight line.
 - b. Move the kayak sideways to the right and to the left.
 - c. Pivot 360 degrees to the right and left.
 - d. Stop the kayak.



Name of applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council name _____ Council number _____

Unit type _____ Unit number _____

Name of counselor _____ Qualification _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Signature of counselor signifies that applicant has completed all requirements:

Signature _____ Date _____

Note to Counselors

Any youth or adult who is registered with a troop or crew and completes the requirements is eligible for a patch and recognition card, available from the local council service center. Instruction for Kayaking BSA is to be conducted under safe conditions on calm water. Two to four hours in one or more sessions should suffice for instruction and practice. Paddle lengths and life jacket sizes should be adequate to fit all participants. Feathered blades are preferred, but blades at the same angle are allowed.

Counselors are expected to supplement the material with their own knowledge and resources. All counselors must be trained in Safety Afloat. Any person recognized as a kayak instructor by the American Canoe Association or equivalent organization may serve as a counselor for this award, with the approval of the local council. A person experienced in kayaking skills and safety may serve as a counselor in a BSA summer camp program under the direction of a currently trained BSA Aquatics Instructor.

Kayaking BSA is intended to provide Scouts and their leaders with an introductory experience to kayaking on lakes, ponds, slow-moving water, or calm ocean areas. Completion of this award should prepare the participants for more advanced courses designed to prepare the unit for touring and class I-II whitewater.

