



Title: Paddling ì kayak, canoe, paddleboard

Overview

Kayaking, canoeing, and stand-

Whitewater paddling | Level 2: Paddling in rivers where mild current and waves occur (class I) and disturbed water flows over obstacles. Technical maneuvering may be required to avoid obstacles.

Whitewater paddling | Level 3: Paddling in rivers where moderate dynamic current and waves (Class II rapids) occur where technical maneuvering may be required to avoid obstacles.

Whitewater paddling | Level 4: Paddling in rivers where substantial dynamic current and waves (Class III rapids) occur where technical maneuvering may be required to avoid obstacles. The paddler encounters irregular waves (~3-4 feet) with obstructions like small falls or drops, counter currents and eddies. This represents the limit of wind, water, and current conditions that UVM programs will seek.

## Procedures

**Chart 1: Trip Leader Qualifications and Conditions Summary**

Paddling Conditions / Level	Paddling Proficiency / Skills	Conditions	Additional Requirements
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	Self Assessed (Appendix 1)  <a href="#">Kayak, Canoe, Paddleboard</a>	Wind: 0 - 8 knots Waves: 0 - 0.75 feet Current: negligible	Safety Equip
Openwater or Whitewater (L 2)	<a href="#">ACA L2, ACA L3WW</a> , BCU 2, UVM L2 Training, or, equivalent demonstration of skills (app 1) in L2 conditions and, <a href="#">River Rescue</a> (whitewater)	Wind: 0 - 10 knots Waves: 0 - 1 feet Current: 0 - 1 knots WW rapids: Class 1	Safety Equip  First Aid/CPR
Openwater or Whitewater (L 3)	<a href="#">ACA L3, ACA L3WW</a> , BCU 3, UVM L3 Training, or, equivalent demonstration of skills in Level 3 conditions and, <a href="#">River Rescue</a> (whitewater)	Wind: 10 - 15 knots Waves: 1 - 2 feet Current: 1 - 2 knots WW rapids: Class II	





## **Participant Safety and Management**

- **Acknowledgement of Risk / Release of Liability**

For voluntary programs - participants must sign a release of liability (appendix B) prior to participation. Failure to do so will result in their ineligibility. Instructors must discuss trip-specific risks before departure.

### **Lightning**

At first sign of an approaching thunder and lightning, get off the water at the nearest appropriate landing. Once on land, follow our standard lightning procedures.

Do not return to the water until 30 minutes has passed without thunder or lightning.

For detailed lightning guidance, refer to [Backcountry Lightning Avoidance](#). (link)

### **Contacts**

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Questions concerning the daily operational interpretation of this UOP should be directed to the following:

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Forms/Flowcharts/Diagrams

Related Documents/Policies

- Domestic Travel Involving Students

Training/Education

