



Isle Royale National Park

Kayak Guide Certification Task Book

Trainee	Date Started
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Guides must demonstrate all skills to the satisfaction of the evaluator and must demonstrate competence and confidence during evaluation. Evaluators are established by each involved Commercial Use Authorization holder. Location of Task Book completion must be similar in conditions present at Isle Royale National Park.

Section 1

Paddling Technique/ Boat fitting

Objectives:

- Demonstrate proper kayak **outfitting** for guiding.
- Demonstrate skill in **moving your kayak** forward, backwards, sideways, and turning.
- Demonstrate skill in **maintaining an upright position** while unbalanced.

Paddling Technique/ Boat fitting	Completed (Intls/ date)
1. Demonstrate proper way to wear PFD and Spray Skirt	
2. Demonstrate adjusting boat for proper fit and operation for guiding	
3. Demonstrate forward stroke	
4. Demonstrate reverse Stroke	
5. Demonstrate sweep stroke	
6. Demonstrate draw stroke and sculling draw	
7. Demonstrate bracing technique	
8. Demonstrate launching and sanding in surf	

Section 2

Rescue Technique and Guide Gear

Objectives:

- Demonstrate competency in kayak **self-rescue** techniques.
- Demonstrate competency in **assisted rescue** techniques.
- Demonstrate understanding of required guide **equipment** and its proper use.

Open Water Self-Rescue Skills	Completed (Intls/ date)
1. Demonstrate wet exit	
2. Demonstrate paddle float self-entry	
3. Demonstrate scramble self-entry	
4. Demonstrate removing water from vessel with bilge pump	
5. Describe importance of staying with kayak and paddle	

Open Water Assisted Rescue Skills	Completed (Intls/ date)
1. Demonstrate kayak capsize and wet exit	
2. Demonstrate T-rescue for single kayak	
3. Demonstrate T-Rescue for tandem kayak	
4. Demonstrate scoop assist rescue	
5. Demonstrate "Hand of God" rescue	
6. Demonstrate removal of water from client kayak and re-gearing of paddler	
7. Warming up and confirming paddler condition (hypothermia detection, etc.)	

Guide Gear	Completed (Intls/ date)
1. Demonstrate paddle float use	
2. Demonstrate bilge pump use	
3. Demonstrate radio use: -Operating channel and clear communication -Weather forecast -Emergency channels	

4. Demonstrate proper use of whistles and signaling devices and describe limitations	
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Section 3

Safety Speech and Understanding Hazards

Objectives:

- Must be able to recite all aspects of **safety briefing**.
- Demonstrate knowledge of **local weather** conditions and impacts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of **no-go situations**.

Safety Briefing	Completed (Initials)
1. Provide safety briefing introduction	
2. Demonstrate how to instruct proper way to hold and use a paddle to include forward and reverse strokes	
3. Demonstrate how to instruct proper adjustment and operation of a kayak rudder	
4. Demonstrate how to instruct attachment and detachment of kayak spray skirt	
5. Demonstrate how to instruct proper execution of a wet exit	
6. Demonstrate how to instruct client procedures while in the water after wet exit	
7. Demonstrate how to instruct kayak re-entry with guide assistance	
8. Demonstrate how to instruct importance of staying with your guide	
9. Demonstrate how to instruct what to do in the event of nausea ("sea sickness")	
10. Demonstrate how to instruct proper whistle and signaling techniques	
11. Demonstrate how to instruct the following hazards to clients: a. Weather b. Rockfall c. tour boats d. other	

Section 3 (continued)

Weather	Completed (Initials)
1. Describe typical wind and wave conditions for the area	
2. Describe the effect of wind direction and speed on wave heights	
3. Describe the effect of wind direction on paddling difficulty	
4. Describe the general effect of waves on the lakeshore	
5. Describe conditions that would determine a no-go situation	
6. Describe procedures for thunderstorms	
7. Describe the criteria for Small Craft Advisories	

Other Hazards	Completed Day (Initials)	Completed Night (Initials)
1. Describe precautions for rockfall and where to expect it (stay out from under the cliffs)		
2. Describe the effects of tour boats and how to avoid being run over		
3. Describe other typical boat users along the lakeshore		
4. Describe the primary wildlife concerns and precautions along the lakeshore		
5. Describe what to do in the event of client sea sickness		
6. Demonstrate proper technique of whistles and signaling		

Section 4

Ride Along Experience

Objective:

- All guides must complete all ride-along tours prior to Isle Royale National Park Guide Certification.

Required Ride Along Tours (date/type of tour, location, notes)	Completed (Initials)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Section 5

Completion of Guide Certification

Guide has demonstrated competence and proficiency in all skills.

Trainee	Date	Evaluator	Date
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Manager Name (print)	Company Name
Manager Signature	Date