



Level 3: Coastal Kayaking

Instructor Criteria

Overview: Fundamentally, we expect that participants will have the paddling skills, technical knowledge, rescue ability, teaching ability, group management, and interpersonal skills commensurate with this level of certification prior to presenting themselves for evaluation as Instructor Candidates at an Instructor Certification Exam (ICE).

Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC):

ACA courses are open to all individuals who acknowledge the ability to perform the following essential eligibility criteria.

1. Breathe independently (i.e., not require medical devices to sustain breathing)
2. Independently maintain sealed airway passages while under water
3. Independently hold head upright without neck / head support
4. Manage personal care independently or with assistance of a companion
5. Manage personal mobility independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance
6. Follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with assistance of a companion
7. Independently turn from face-down to face-up and remain floating face up while wearing a properly fitted life jacket*
8. Get on / off or in / out of a paddlecraft independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
9. Independently get out and from under a capsized paddlecraft*
10. Remount or reenter the paddlecraft following deep water capsize independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
11. Maintain a safe body position while attempting skills, activities and rescues listed in the appropriate Course Outline, and have the ability to recognize and identify to others when such efforts would be unsafe given your personal situation*

** To participate in adaptive programs, participants must acknowledge only the first six EEC listed above. Entry-level adaptive programs will involve teaching and practicing EEC #7-11.*

Course Prerequisites: Must have successfully completed a Level 3: Coastal Kayak Skills Assessment or Level 3: Coastal Kayak Trip Leader Assessment (effective January 1, 2016).

Course Duration: Combined IDW & ICE - Minimum 5 days (40 hours)



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Course Location / Venue: L3: Coastal Kayaking Instructor Certification cannot be completed unless during some period two of the conditions necessary for assessment are present during some portion the certification course. The four criteria are:

- 10-15 knot winds
- 1-2 foot seas
- 1-2 foot breaking waves
- 1-2 knots of current

Class Ratio: 5 Instructor Candidates : 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant the ratio can be 10 : 2

Succeeding courses:

- Level 4: Open Water Coastal Kayaking
- Level 5: Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking

The following is a list of the criteria used to evaluate instructor candidates. The content covered and sequence of evaluation should be adjusted to best fit the participant's needs, class location and time allowance.

General Requirements for all Instructor Certifications:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Meet the appropriate essential eligibility criteria
- Successfully complete an Instructor Certification Workshop and an Instructor Certification Examination (IDW & ICE)
- Be a full ACA member
- Upon successful completion of the ICE, register with the Safety Education & Instruction Council
- Have and maintain First Aid and age appropriate CPR
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately perform and teach all of the following material unassisted in the appropriate venue
- Instructors are expected to be able to demonstrate, teach, and model everything on the official ACA skills course and assessment course outlines which correspond to their level/craft.

Demonstrate knowledge and ability to efficiently/effectively plan and implement appropriate instructional sessions and assessments for a different learning styles and ability levels, to include:

- Differentiation of instruction based on the individual learner (student centered)
- Use of an appropriate skills progression when teaching complex skill sets
- Selection of appropriate teaching venue based on ability and desired outcomes
- Focus on core principals rather than specific technique
- Provides appropriate, specific and meaningful feedback

Maintenance Requirements:

- Teach at least two courses that meet ACA standards within the four-year certification period and report the results to the National Office



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- Complete an Instructor Update, at the highest level of certification, during the four-year certification period
- Maintain ACA membership and SEIC registration annually

Level 3: Coastal Kayaking Instructor Requirements:

- 1) Demonstrate a knowledge of ACA paperwork:
 - How to register & report a course (with and without insurance)
 - An understanding of the ACA Waiver & Release of Liability
- 2) Demonstrate a knowledge of:
 - Teaching theory
 - Learning theory
 - Effective methods of providing feedback
- 3) Demonstrate the following:
 - Positive interpersonal skills
 - Appropriate group management skills (including leadership and judgment)
 - Ability to choose an appropriate venue / class site
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to effectively and efficiently perform, assess and teach the basic paddle strokes and maneuvers, to include:
 - Forward (touring & power)
 - Reverse & stopping
 - Forward and reverse sweeps
 - Draw (in-water / out-of-water / sculling)
 - High and low braces
 - Sculling brace
 - Rudder
 - Low brace turn
 - High brace turn
 - Bow rudder
 - Side-Slip
- 5) Demonstrate the understanding of and the ability to effectively and efficiently perform, assess and teach boat control skills, to include:
 - Edge awareness and control
 - Launching and landing
 - Forward paddling, reverse paddling and maneuvering in a variety of sea states, wind conditions, wind directions and tidal current up to the Level 3:CK certification course venue
- 6) Demonstrate the ability to effectively and efficiently perform, assess and teach rescue techniques in a variety of sea states, wind conditions, wind directions and tidal current up to the Level 3: CK certification course venue:
 - Wet exit w/ spray skirt



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- Self-rescue (scramble, paddle float w/ and w/o sling)
- Boat over boat rescue (T-rescue)
- Rescue (bow / stern / paddle)
- Scoop rescue
- Unresponsive paddler rescue *e.g. Hand-of-God*
- Swimmer recovery (bow, stern)

Also have working knowledge and individual proficiency in other rescues:

- Reentry and roll w/ and w/o paddle float
- Roll (individual proficiency – perform a roll in conditions)

7) Demonstrate knowledge of, and ability to effectively and efficiently perform, assess and teach, the following:

- Safety issues and hazards of coastal kayaking
- Development of a float plan
- Equipment selection / packing
- Weather forecasting resources and interpretation
- Leave No Trace, understanding ecology, conservation and stewardship
- Basic chart reading and use
- Hypothermia and hyperthermia; prevention and treatment
- Signaling devices and safety equipment
- Boat traffic, rules of the road
- Kayak design and equipment
- Kayak towing technique

8) Demonstrate the ability to effectively and efficiently perform, assess and teach group and incident management skills and concepts, to include:

- Communication and signaling (VHF radio protocol / pyrotechnics / smoke)
- Situational awareness
- Appropriate leadership, judgment and group management in a variety of open water coastal environment