

BOAT REGULATIONS AND SAFETY TIPS

Safety Equipment Checklist:

- Flotation Gear (regulations require a Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device for each occupant).
- Audible signaling device (Coast Guard regulations require)
- First Aid kit w/ added insect repellent and sunscreen
- Extra paddle, paddle float, pump and spray skirt for kayaks
- Bow and stern lines
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Electronics including: Compass, GPS, marine VHF Radio and Cell Phone
- Water Bottle with plenty of fresh water
- Wide brim hat and sunglasses

Allow Enough Time:

- Allow 2 miles per hour for canoeing and 3 miles per hour for kayaking under normal conditions
- Allow time to drive and shuttle cars

Know the Waters:

- Check recent and predicted weather conditions
- Check water conditions including temperature, wind and wave conditions. Dress for combined water and air temperatures
- Open river paddling is more exposed to the wind than many of the smaller streams

Play it Safe:

- Lock your car and take your keys (in water proof container if electronic type) with you
- Don't paddle alone
- Watch boat traffic, paddle close to the shoreline and turn bow into the powerboat wakes
- Leave your paddle plans and when you will return with someone and let them know when you return
- Place food and gear in water tight containers and secure in boats
- Don't overload the boat
- Avoid horseplay
- Carry PLENTY of drinking water

Respect Property:

- Don't litter or pollute with trash or other waste
- Don't harass animals
- Access on private lands by permission only
- Camp only in designated areas and don't build campfires unless fire pit is provided
- Don't cut trees unless deadfall's blocking stream