



Rules and Guidelines for Participation in a LowCountry Paddlers Club Paddling Trip



Following are the rules and guidelines for participating in a LowCountry Paddlers Club sponsored paddling trip by all LCP Club Members and Guests.

- You should sign up for the trip at the Monthly LCP Club Meeting or contact the Trip Leader to let them know that you want to be on the trip and ask any trip related questions to help you decide if the trip is right for you.
- Trip Leaders have the LCP Club's authority and responsibility to deny trip participation to people that they believe do not have the correct equipment, skills or conditioning to make a safe trip.
- Proper equipment must include a kayak appropriate for the trip difficulty as established by the trip leader, adequate paddle, USCG approved PFD* (to be worn, zipped and clipped at all times on the water), a sound producing device (whistle, bell, horn), any other equipment required by the USCG for the particular trip (check with the trip leader for specific requirements) and adequate hydration. Recommended equipment that will vary by trip may include a spray skirt, spare paddle, paddle float, bilge pump, navigational device (compass, GPS), lunch, and sunscreen.
- It is recommended that you show up at the launch site at least 30 minutes before scheduled trip departure time. This is to ensure you are ready to launch at the designated time and will not hold up the other paddlers.
- "Sign In" with the Trip Leader. You must be a member of the LowCountry Paddlers Club to participate in the trip unless it is your first trip. First time participants will need to fill out a waiver that will be filed with the trip paperwork by the Trip Leader.
- Cooperate - Help others launch their kayaks. Be aware that the Trip Leader may need to alter the plan due to the weather, the needs of one paddler or the needs of the group as a whole.
- Communicate - Tell the Trip Leader if you are having problems with things like blisters, fatigue, sickness, equipment or are anxious or having trouble handling the paddling conditions.
- Stay with the Group - General rule within appropriate communication distance from the nearest co-paddler. No paddler should break away from the group for any reasons other than those previously agreed upon with the Trip Leader. In the event of an emergency that necessitates an individual to turn back, the Trip Leader will assign a strong paddler with adequate safety equipment & skills to accompany the returning individual.
- Follow Instructions - The Trip Leader may consult with participants, but ultimately has decision making authority over all aspects of the trip. Trip Leaders will make judgment calls for the safety and enjoyment of participants, including denying the participation to anyone who does not comply with the above rules.
- If you do not have a "Liability Waiver" on file with the LCP Club, you must obtain one and give it to the Trip Leader prior to departure.
- Obey all civil laws and regulations and treat the environment with care.
- Obey the rules as set up in the LowCountry Paddlers Club By-Laws.
- No radios, pets, firearms or alcohol will be allowed on planned LCP trips.

***A Note About Inflatable PFDs**

- LCP's Position - The Coast Guard states that inflatable PFDs are acceptable as flotation devices as long as they are worn (not just on the boat). However, because the Trip Leader is responsible for safety on his/her trip, the Trip Leader may determine if inflatable PFDs are acceptable for his/her trip. LCP Trip Leaders who do not want inflatable PFDs on one of their trips should state this clearly in the pre-trip communication with the participants. The Trip Leader might also consider bringing an additional regular PFD if someone should come to their trip with an inflatable PFD.