



Program Information Package

Paddle Canada Level One Skills Training

Program Description

Our 2-day Level 1 Skills program builds on the skills introduced in the Basic Paddle Canada skills course and includes practical sea kayak training and knowledge for day touring in sheltered coastal waters. Included in this course are weather interpretation, practical navigational exercises and planning and executing a kayaking trip with easy access to communication and emergency services.

This course is designed for:

- Beginner recreational kayakers wishing to increase their knowledge, skills and understanding of weather and navigation for planning a day trip by kayak; and,
- Kayakers continuing on to challenge the Paddle Canada Level 2 skills and Level 1 Instructor award and other higher level awards including Instructor Trainer.



Paperwork Checklist

Please use the following checklist to ensure you have received and reviewed all the required documentation prior to the program start date:

- Paddle Canada Level One Skills Program Document – please review
- SKILS Waiver – please sign with your instructor at the beginning of the program
- Paddle Canada Waiver - please sign with your instructor at the beginning of the program
- SKILS Medical Form – please bring a completed copy to your program

Program Logistics

Program Prerequisites

We recommend some very basic kayaking experience.

Course Content

This course is designed for individuals who wish to become more independent paddlers and begin exploring coastal waters. There is a lot of information taught in a short period of time. The skills you will learn are a necessity for day touring. The focus will be on the practical knowledge with heavy emphasis on kayak safety training:

- Rescues Towing
- Communication
- Knots
- Strokes (sweep, forward, reverse, draw, sculling draw, low brace, high brace, stern rudder)
- Journeyman and seamanship Safety
- Kayaking resources
- Paddling in Class 1 sea conditions
- Planning and executing a day sea kayaking trip in level 1 sea conditions

Meals

You are responsible for all meals. Be prepared to bring your meal with you in the kayaks. Snacks are recommended to help fill in the hunger gaps between meals.

Accommodation

You are responsible for your own accommodation during, before and after the program.

We recommend staying in Ucluelet because this location is closer to your on-water classrooms.

We suggest the following places:

Surf Junction Campground: 1-877-922-6722 or www.surfjunction.com

C&N Backpackers Hostel: (250) 726-7416 or www.cnnbackpackers.com

Little Beach Resort: (250) 726-4202 or www.littlebeachresort.com

Surf's Inn Guesthouse: (250) 726-4426 or www.surfsinn.ca

Ucluelet Campground (250) 726-4355 www.uclueletcampground.com

Pacific Rim Motel 1-800-810-0031 or www.pacificrimmotel.com

You may find these links useful while shopping for an accommodation provider.

www.booking.com

<https://www.discoverucluelet.com>

<https://pacificrimmotel.com>

<https://www.airbnb.ca>

What to Bring

In order to stay comfortable during your program, please dress appropriately for the weather and bring the following items:

- Bathing suit for under a wet suit
- A complete change of warm clothing
- Sun protection
- Rain protection
- Toque
- Water
- Lunch and snacks
- Pen and paper

What SKILS Will Provide

SKILS will provide specialized equipment such as flares and VHF Radios, group equipment such as tarps, and safety equipment such as first aid kits and kayak repair kits. SKILS will provide participants with immersion gear, kayaks and kayak accessories.

Preparation Before the Course and Online Learning.

Thirty (30) days before the course, we will give you access to our online classroom. You are required to do the reading in the online classroom before the start of the course. This will help you to learn faster, reduce your stress, and get the best out of the in-person section of the course. The "Above and Beyond" sections of the online classroom are not mandatory but if you are super keen, curious, or have time, you can learn much more in these sections. Let us know by emailing us at info@skils.ca if you want to start work in the online classroom more than 30 days before your course so you can learn at your own pace without a time constraint. Plan to spend 6-8 hours of online work.



Course Outline

This is a general outline for Paddle Canada Level 1 Skills course. Depending on location, class size, and availability of the classroom, the schedule will change. The course covers a lot of material in a very short period of time; candidates are discouraged from planning anything else during this period.



	Morning	Afternoon	
Day One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Paperwork • Orientation • Navigation 101 • Weather 101 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayak Design • Essential gear and equipment • Basic strokes and rescues 	
Day Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation 102 • Trip Plan • Communication • Orientation to Packing a kayak • Float plan • On water communication • Emergency Response • Basic strokes and rescues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate strokes and rescues • Kayak excursion <p>Course ends at 1630</p>	



Thank you for enrolling in our skills training program. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact us at info@skils.ca. We look forward to playing on the water with you!