



OSU Small Boat Program - Basic Kayaking Skills Assessment and Review

INTRO: This skills assessment is based on *American Canoe Association (ACA)* L1 and L2 kayak training descriptions and represents the minimum skills and knowledge needed for approval to conduct kayak operations for research or educational purposes at OSU. Additional skills and trainings may be indicated depending on the nature of the planned operations. Persons authorized to administer these assessments will be determined by the OSU Small Boat Program.

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **LOCATION:** _____

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TEAM RISK ASSESSMENT (“Go - No Go”)

- Wind, Waves, Weather
- Water: current (cfs), volume, direction, and changes caused by streambed features or tides
- Personal water comfort & confidence
- Safety and rescue considerations: Float Plan filed, check-in procedures, review Emergency Plan
- Review work tasks/assignments; final group risk assessment
- Make “Go – No Go” call

EQUIPMENT CHECK

- PFDs and other safety equipment (throw bags, First Aid, exposure equipment)
- Kayaks: condition, safety features, and equipment
- Paddles: condition and type
- Emergency Communication gear for paddling location (cell phone, VHF radio, sat phone or SPOT)
- Science gear needed

SKILLS: Maneuvers

- J-lean / Heeling the boat
- Paddling in a reasonably straight line
- Spins
- Stopping
- Ferries
- Eddy Turns
- Peel Outs
- Moving Abeam

SKILLS: Strokes

- Forward
- Back (stopping)
- Draw
- Sculling draw
- Sweep (including Stern Draw)
- Reverse Sweep
- Rudder
- Low Brace

SKILLS: Rescues

- Self-Rescue exiting and reboarding
- Boat Emptying
- Assisted Rescue from Boat

EVALUATOR SIGNATURE: _____ **PASS? (Y/N):** _____



Small Boat Program – Division of Research and Innovation

Oregon State University, B308G Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2140

Email: boating.safety@oregonstate.edu ; Website: <https://research.oregonstate.edu/boating>

NOTES: