



Welcome to the SEIC Newsletter! We have created this monthly newsletter to supply updates, information, and important news to increase communication and connectivity between the ACA Safety Education and Instruction Council, Discipline Committees, the ACA Staff, and certified instructors and trainers.



As spring is rapidly approaching, many outdoor recreation employers are seeking training for their staff. If there are summer camps, scouting groups, or paddling outfitters in your area - now is the time to introduce yourself and express the types of paddling education that you can provide! One ACA program that has seen popularity and growth is the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF). The American Camp Association accepts the PSF program for their accreditation, so now is the time to engage with this seasonal market and make relationships in your community! SEIC Vice Chair, Trey Rouss has graciously provided a great introduction to the program - check it out!

Paddlesport Safety Facilitator (PSF)

An amazing program with an intimidating name. Let's keep it real, the PSF is a needed and valuable program AND it can be confusing. I want to assure you all that the ACA staff and SEIC Board are looking at ways to refine and improve this offering for our most crucial contact point with the paddling public.

What is it?

The PSF program is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge they need to get people started on a fun and safe paddling experience.

What can a Paddlesport Safety Facilitator do?

A certified PSF certified is empowered to provide basic *instructions* to paddlers *on land*. They are not taking people out on the water or teaching paddling sessions. Think of a PSF communication as: “This is how you hold a paddle properly, wear a lifejacket securely fastened like this, do this when you tip over, etc.”

How does someone earn the PSF certification?

To earn the PSF award, participants will need to attend an in-person PSF course. There they will engage, share, and learn with an appropriately certified ACA instructor both on land and *in the water*. Yes, I said *in the water!* While PSFs are not certified to take people on or into the water, *for participants to earn the award*, they must demonstrate proficiency with in-water solutions.

The beauty of the PSF award is that it can be multi-craft and achieved within one day for all 3 craft (canoe, kayak, SUP).

Who can provide the PSF certification course?

The details for the credentials are outlined in detail within the [PSF criteria](#) on the ACA website.

This course may be offered by currently certified ACA Level 3 or higher Instructors. Additionally, this course may be offered by currently certified ACA Level 1 and 2 instructors with a Paddlesports Safety Facilitator Endorsement. If the ACA Instructor would like to offer the PSF course in another discipline (other than which they are currently certified), they must have, at minimum, an ACA Level 1 Assessment in that additional discipline to offer that module.

As a Level 1 or 2 ACA instructor seeking the endorsement to provide this course, I *highly encourage you to participate in a PSF course first!* While the content of the course is within the PSF endorsement curriculum, the limited timeframe and large number of students (12:1 course size) is a unique challenge for instructors and trainers.

For IT/ITEs offering the PSF endorsement in a virtual or hybrid fashion, we encourage you to consider requiring the instructor to have already completed a PSF certification. If not, you must be very clear on how you are assessing and confirming the instructor's ability to *plan, deliver, conduct, and report a full PSF course with potentially multiple craft.*

Wrapping Up

In whatever way you may engage this program, remember to make your courses all about the participants - not you. Keep courses about fun, activity, and the sharing of experiences. Please reach out to your [discipline committees](#) to get involved with the improving and re-imagining of this program. I have a hundred bucks for whoever comes up with the new name! Yes, we need a new name. And yes, I am serious ... \$100.

Please reach out and stay tuned for content and recommendations for successful delivery of this great program.

Trey Rouss - Vice Chair, ACA SEIC



Did you know?! Instructor Updates can be accomplished by several different methods:

- Participate in an actual Instructor Update course at your highest certification level.
- Assist with an IDW or ICE at your highest level of certification (with the pre-approval of the IT) and complete a review of ACA Policies & Procedures with the IT.
- Co-teach a skills course at your highest level of certification under the supervision of an IT in that discipline and complete a review of ACA Policies & Procedures with the IT.

If browsing the [ACA Course Calendar](#) hasn't yet matched with your schedule, [reach out to an IT or ITE directly](#) to ask about their availability to help you with one of the update options described above!

You may complete your instructor update at any time during your certification cycle - you do not (and should not) wait until your final year of certification!

We've got resources and tools for ACA Instructors and Trainers!

- [Instructor & Trainer Resources YouTube Playlist](#)
- [Course Management System \(CMS\) Log In & Tools](#)
- [Free Online Paddling Safety Course for Students](#) - NEW Content Coming Soon!
- [About the ACA Presentation](#)
- [ACA Presentation Template \(PPT\)](#)
- [ACA Outreach Flyer](#)
- [Contact Your SEIC Board & Discipline Committee](#)
- [SEIC Newsletter Archives](#)

[Instructor Resource Collection](#)

