

LT Orientation - July 9th

Quick recap

The meeting served as an orientation session for the new Leader Track program, where participants were introduced to the program's structure, prerequisites, and multi-craft components. Discussions covered the differences between instructor and leader pathways, including certification requirements, course content, and insurance coverage, with emphasis on the gradual release of responsibilities and scenario-based training methods. The group addressed various implementation challenges and opportunities, including the integration of multi-craft components and the development of separate guide and leader certification programs, while also touching on the upcoming conference and resource availability for trainers and candidates.

Next steps

- All Attendees: Complete and submit the reflection form via the provided link to receive leader trainer certification
- Kelsey: Add attendees' names to the list of current leader trainers after they complete reflection forms
- All Attendees: Review the leader pathway resources, written exams, and case studies available on the ACA website after receiving trainer certification
- All Attendees: Review and familiarize themselves with the trainer workbooks and course materials available through Amazon
- Nick and Kelsey: Follow up offline to discuss the relationship between instructor certification and leader certification programs
- Mike: Conduct upcoming CPL training course on September 17th
- Mike and Don: Coordinate to co-teach a leader course in Florida

Summary

Leader Track Orientation Session

The meeting served as an orientation session for the Leader Track program, with Mike hosting and Kelsey providing support. Participants introduced themselves and shared their expectations for the session, which included curiosity, openness, and interest in the program's rollout. The group discussed the structure of the orientation, with Kelsey emphasizing that the session was flexible and focused on addressing questions and concerns. Mike expressed some uncertainty about managing the 2-hour Zoom call, which was new to him, but the group agreed to proceed with the session.

Leader Pathway Training Overview

Mike discussed the differences between the existing instructor pathway and the new leader pathway, emphasizing the focus on leadership and multi-craft components. He highlighted the importance of scenario-based training and evaluation methods, as well as the gradual release of responsibilities to develop leadership abilities. Mike also reviewed the operating conditions for CPL certification, noting potential challenges in certain water conditions and the requirement for multi-craft rescue skills.

Leader Training Prerequisites Discussion

The group discussed prerequisites for a new leader training program, with Mike expressing concerns about the requirement for Level 2 Essentials of River Safety and Rescue skills for instructors. Kelsey clarified that while the program has prerequisites, existing instructors do not need to meet these requirements to become leader trainers, though they must complete the orientation and reflection form. The group agreed that assessments for the safety and rescue skills would need to be made available, with Mike offering to help coordinate these assessments.

Leadership Program Multicraft Rescues

Mike discussed the multicraft component of a leadership program, focusing on rescues in different craft and environments. He highlighted the differences between coastal and river rescues, emphasizing the need for specific skills and prerequisites. Jeff pointed out that the program currently has a strong coastal focus, which may not adequately address the needs of boundary waters canoeing enthusiasts. Mike agreed and suggested that the program could potentially provide a solution for expanding canoeing opportunities beyond whitewater.

Leader Certification Program Development

The meeting focused on the development and implementation of a new leader certification program, with discussions around prerequisites, course content, and insurance coverage. Mike

explained the importance of establishing a baseline of competency for participants and emphasized the need for trainers to align course content with specific venues and objectives. Kelsey clarified that while the leader program is designed for day trips, a separate guide program for multi-day expeditions is still in development. Jeff raised concerns about the lack of multi-day trip components in the current program, offering to assist in addressing this gap. The group also discussed insurance coverage for certified leaders and the distinction between requirements for certified instructors versus club leaders.

Paddlesport Leadership Certification Program

The meeting focused on the implementation of new leadership certification programs for paddlesports instructors. Mike and Kelsey discussed the four P's of paddlesport leadership (People, Equipping and Empowering, Creating Effective Plans, and Cultivating Communication Skills) and the three-phase gradual release of responsibility model for training leaders. They reviewed the course curriculum, which includes leadership exercises, decision-making workshops, and practical scenarios, as well as the new course materials available through Amazon's print-on-demand system. The group also clarified that while leadership certification is not required for guide certification, it is a standalone program with its own prerequisites and requirements.

Multi-Craft Training Program Implementation

The group discussed challenges and opportunities related to incorporating multi-craft components into their program. Mike emphasized that candidate workbooks are required and must be obtained by participants, though he expressed concerns about verifying compliance. The team explored various logistics around accessing and transporting different types of watercraft for training purposes, with Melinda highlighting the challenge of securing canoes for coastal areas. Jeff raised questions about liability and certification requirements for teaching rescues in different crafts, which Kelsey addressed by clarifying that instructors only need to demonstrate basic rescue abilities rather than achieve certification in all crafts. The group agreed to proceed with the multi-craft component as per the board's requirements, with Mike suggesting that most candidates would likely have sufficient experience to handle the rescues.

Certification Integration and Leadership Pathways

The group discussed the potential benefits and challenges of integrating instructor and leader certifications, with Kelsey cautioning against mixing the two programs due to potential confusion and misalignment of skills. Mike clarified that the leader certification is a separate track from instructor certification, designed primarily for insurance purposes and trip leading skills. The conversation touched on the possibility of allowing instructors to pursue leader

certifications without repeating the entire program, but Mike emphasized the need to clarify this with the SEIC. Chris suggested considering individuals who may not qualify for instructor certification but possess strong trip leading skills for a community trip leader award.

ACA Leader Pathway Program Overview

The meeting focused on the ACA's leader pathway program and certification process. Kelsey provided an overview of the program, including the steps for becoming a leader trainer and accessing resources through the CMS system. She explained the difference between the leader and guide programs, as well as the process for co-teaching certification workshops. Mike expressed interest in co-teaching a course in Maryland and discussed potential applications for state and county parks. The group also discussed the upcoming conference in October and the availability of resources for trainers and candidates. Kelsey encouraged participants to complete the reflection form and reach out with any questions.