



Advanced Communications Workshop

Instructor Endorsement Criteria

Course Overview:

Designed for instructors, outfitters, recreation program managers, trip leaders, and all others who want to seamlessly integrate people with speech and language impairments, hearing impairments or deafness, visual impairments or blindness into paddlesports programs. Advanced Communications Workshops provide a basic understanding of disabilities that affect communication and provide a toolbox of knowledge, techniques, and strategies to enable successful integration. Current ACA Instructors will earn the Advanced Communications Endorsement upon successful completion. All other ACA members, who are not certified ACA instructors, will earn a Certificate of Completion upon successful demonstration of all endorsement criteria.

Course Prerequisites:

- All participants must acknowledge personal compliance with the [ACA Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\)](#)
- Be a current certified ACA Paddling Instructor at Level 1 or above (for Endorsement)
- Be a current ACA Member (for Certificate of Completion)

Course Duration: 16 hours minimum

Course Location / Accessible Venues: Corresponding with the Instructor Trainers' highest level of certification.

Course Ratios: 5 Endorsement Candidates : 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional AC Endorsed Instructor the ratio can be 10:2. The maximum number of candidates permitted is 10.

Endorsement Maintenance Requirements:

- Maintain an ACA Instructor Certification in any paddling discipline
- Teach and properly report at least 2 courses that include at least 1 student with a communications-related disability within the 4-year endorsement period

Advanced Communications Instructor Endorsement Criteria:

Endorsement Candidates will demonstrate and convey the following for paddlers experiencing vision loss and blindness (VI), hearing loss and deafness (HI), and speech and language impairments (SLI):

- Demonstrate understanding of and successfully apply core ACA Instructional skills to paddlers experiencing VI, HI, and SLI:
 - Teaching theory
 - Learning theory
 - Effective methods of providing feedback
- Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform and convey the following current best practices:
 - Development and application of Essential Eligibility Criteria
 - Medical information collection and rules about disclosure



Advanced Communications Workshop

Instructor Endorsement Criteria

- Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform and convey the following:
 - Tailoring instruction for paddlers experiencing VI, HI, and SLI
 - Language and etiquette unique to VI, HI, and SLI
 - Teaching techniques unique for best reaching people with VI, HI, and SLI
 - On-water facilitation and risk management for classes that include paddlers with VI, HI, and SLI.
- Demonstrate ability to assess students' instruction needs, strengths, and tailor instruction accordingly
- Demonstrate ability to teach ACA paddling skills, maneuvers, and content effectively while maintaining appropriate situational awareness and group management
- Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience, and judgment necessary for proper risk management and effective instruction
- Demonstrate ability and knowledge necessary to operate on-water classes for people with communication related disabilities
- Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in an instructional team environment:
 - Works well with students, including demonstrated ability to effectively listen and apply student concerns and desires
 - Works well with other members of instructional team
 - Actively participates in discussions throughout ACW on pertinent topics and issues