



Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) Certification Criteria - Kayak Module

Paddlesport Safety Facilitator (PSF) Course Overview

We expect Paddlesports Safety Facilitators (PSF) to be able to effectively maneuver their craft and demonstrate competent rescue techniques. This certification allows the facilitator to introduce paddlecraft safety and knowledge to the beginner paddler in a land-based setting. This module is to be taught in conjunction with the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator General Knowledge Module. This is a 4-year, non-renewable certification.

If you're a student who would like a resource to prepare for this course, ACA is pleased to provide a free online paddling safety course, [here](#). A certificate of completion is included!

Course Prerequisites

- Acknowledgment of personal compliance with the [ACA Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\)](#).
- Be a current ACA Member

Course Duration

General Knowledge Module Duration: Minimum of 4 hours

Discipline Specific Module Duration: Minimum of 1 hour per module

Course Location / Accessible Venues

Flat water, protected from wind, waves and outside boat traffic, with current less than 0.5 knots and within swimming distance of shore.

Course Size

12 Participants : 1 Instructor; with an additional qualified assistant, the ratio can be 24 : 2. The maximum number of participants permitted is 24.

Instructor

This course may be offered by currently certified ACA Level 3 (or higher) Kayak 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 Skills Assessment in that additional discipline.

Succeeding Courses

Level 1: Introduction to Kayaking, Canoeing, or SUP Skills, Assessment, or Certification Course

Community Paddlesports Leader (CPL) Certification Course

General Requirements for all ACA PSF Certification Candidates

- Be at least 16 years old
- Demonstrate general knowledge of ACA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives
- Be a full ACA member
- Successfully complete the PSF General Module
- Successfully complete at least one of the discipline specific modules: canoe, kayak, or SUP
- Successfully complete the PSF written exam
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA

Certification Maintenance Requirements

- Maintain ACA membership annually

ACA Paddlesport Safety Facilitator (PSF) - Kayak Module Requirements

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Load and unload a kayak
- Carry the kayak to and from the water
- Entry/Exit from the shore or dock
- Determine trim of the kayak

Demonstrate the ability to perform the following safety and rescue skills:

- Maneuver the kayak to rescue a person in the water and the capsized boat
- Controlled capsize/wet exit
- Swim kayak 25ft to shore
- Empty a kayak full of water at the shoreline
- Tow a swimmer and kayak to shore
- On water kayak rescue (Boat over Boat)
- Assisted re-entry of swimmer (i.e., Heel Hook / Scoop / Back Deck)

Satisfactorily complete the PSF General module

Successfully complete the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator Exam

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This curriculum is managed by the ACA Introduction to Paddling (IPC) Committee. To connect with the leadership of this committee, please view the SEIC Committee rosters on [the ACA website](#).