



# 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 & 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 provides a toolbox of knowledge, techniques and strategies to enable successful integration. Current ACA Instructors will earn the Advanced Communications Endorsement upon successful completion. All others ACA members, who are not certified ACA instructors, will earn a Certificate of Completion upon successful demonstration of all endorsement criteria.

### Course Prerequisites:

- Be a current certified ACA Paddling Instructor at Level 1 or above (for Endorsement)
- Be a current ACA Member (for Certificate of Completion)

### Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC):

ACA courses are open to all individuals who acknowledge the ability to perform the following essential eligibility criteria.

1. Breathe independently (i.e., not require medical devices to sustain breathing)
2. Independently maintain sealed airway passages while under water
3. Independently hold head upright without neck / head support
4. Manage personal care independently or with assistance of a companion
5. Manage personal mobility independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance
6. Follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with assistance of a companion
7. Independently turn from face-down to face-up and remain floating face up while wearing a properly fitted life jacket\*
8. Get in / out of a paddlecraft independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance\*
9. Independently get out and from under a capsized paddlecraft\*
10. Reenter the paddlecraft following deep water capsize independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance\*
11. Maintain a safe body position while attempting skills, activities and rescues listed in the appropriate Course Outline, and have the ability to recognize and identify to others when such efforts would be unsafe given your personal situation\*

*To participate in adaptive programs, participants must acknowledge only the first six EEC listed above. Entry-level adaptive programs will involve teaching and practicing EEC #7-11.*

**Course Duration:** 16 hours minimum

**Course Location / Accessible Venues:** Classroom + ACA Level 1 water venues.

**Class Ratios:** 5 Endorsement Candidates to 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional AC Endorsed Instructor the ratio can be 10:2

### Endorsement Maintenance Requirements:

- 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.



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### Adaptive Paddling Instructor Endorsement Criteria:

- Demonstrate understanding of and successfully apply core ACA Instructional skills:
  - Teaching theory
  - Learning theory
  - Effective methods of providing feedback
- Demonstrate knowledge & ability to perform & convey the following current best practices:
  - Development and application of Essential Eligibility Criteria,
  - Interaction with persons with disabilities
  - Medical information collection, and rules about disclosure
- Demonstrate ability to assess students' instruction needs & teach to student abilities
- Demonstrate ability to paddle and perform rescues efficiently & comfortably, while maintaining appropriate situational awareness & group management
- Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience and judgment necessary for proper risk management and effective instruction
- Demonstrate ability & knowledge necessary to operate on-water classes for people with communication related disabilities
- Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in an instructional team environment:
  - Work well with students, including demonstrated ability to effectively listen & apply student concerns & desires
  - Work well with other members of instructional teams
  - Actively participates in discussions throughout ACW on pertinent topics & issues
- Demonstrate knowledge & ability to perform & convey the following:
  - Tailoring instruction for paddlers with vision loss and blindness (VI)
    - Interaction & etiquette unique to VI
    - Teaching techniques unique for best reaching people with VI
    - On-water facilitation and risk management for classes that include paddlers with VI
  - Tailoring instruction for paddlers with hearing loss and deafness (HI)
    - Interaction & etiquette unique to HI
    - Teaching techniques unique for best reaching people with HI
    - On-water facilitation and risk management for classes that include paddlers with HI
  - Tailoring instruction for paddlers with speech and language impairments (SLI)
    - Interaction & etiquette unique to SLI
    - Teaching techniques unique for best reaching people with SLI
      - On-water facilitation and risk management for classes that include paddlers with SLI