

OOCC Kapena or “Paddle Leader” Requirements

Overview

This document outlines responsibilities, qualifications, and the approval process for OOCC Paddle Leaders”. A “Paddler Leader” is required to take any OOCC 6-man canoe or group of canoes out for any paddle including recreational paddles, newcomer paddles, friend paddles, or race paddles. This is intended to build on, simplify, and replace the current “Captains” program and differs from that program in that it does not require a “Paddle Leader” to be a qualified steersperson. Nor does it assume that all qualified steerspersons are qualified “Paddle Leaders”.

Responsibilities

- Plan all paddles in compliance with general OOCC policy regarding safety. Check canoes general seaworthiness (hull and ama condition, rigging, and safety equipment). Rerig if necessary.
- Ensure that all paddlers are swimmers, know responsibilities if there is a huli, and are able to get back into a canoe after a huli.
- Set course and plan paddle – Check conditions (weather, wind, swell, fog, water temp, air temp, tide), assess conditions, and assess level of competency of crew members. Plan paddle around the conditions and the competency of the least competent crew member.
- Organize and direct the launching and taking out of canoes.
- Instruct paddlers as to direction, distance or time of any paddle piece, drill, etc. at each rest stop
- Make decisions regarding a change in the paddle plan as conditions dictate.
- Be able to take command, make decisive decisions, and communicate these to paddlers.
- Make all decisions with safety in mind.
- If an injury occurs in a canoe or if there is any other incident concerning another vessel or person, complete a SCORA incident report (copies are in the administrative file box in the canoe yard) and send to the President.

Qualifications

- Know all OOCC policies with regard to paddler and paddle safety requirements
- Know rules for safe vessel navigation (rules of the road, vessels with right away, etc.)
- Know how to use a marine radio to call for assistance if in distress
- Know general safety and first aid procedures
- Know how to rig a canoe
- Demonstrate ability to make safe decisions and communicate with paddlers

Approval process

- A list of all approved “Paddle Leaders” will be compiled by the Head Coach, Rec Director, Race Director, and Vice President and approved by the Board. This list will be communicated to the club and posted in they yard along with a list of general OOCC safe paddle policies.

- Those paddlers seeking to become “Paddler Leaders” will communicate his/her desire to either the Head Coach, Rec Director, Race Director, or VP. He/she will then be required to demonstrate to the Head Coach, Rec Director, Race Director, or VP that they know the policies and rules of OCCC, are capable of following these rules, making reasoned safety decisions, and effectively communicating these decisions to paddlers. This will require that prospective “Paddle Leaders” lead one or more paddles while the Head Coach, Rec Director, Race Director, or VP (or designee) is present. The number of paddles required to deem a prospective paddler worthy or unworthy of consideration as “Paddle Leader” will be at the discretion of the Head Coach, Rec Director, or VP (or designee). After the prospective paddle leader demonstrates these capabilities, the Head Coach, Rec Director, Race Director, and VP (or designee) will ask the Board for approval of this person for inclusion to the list of approved “Paddle Leaders”.
- If at any time a “Paddle Leader” fails to follow club policy or makes unreasonable decisions regarding paddler safety, the Board will review his/her qualifications and may, if deemed necessary, remove that person from the list of approved “Paddle Leaders”.