

**Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech
Kayak Touring Policies**

Note: 7/25/2006 Revisions are noted in track changes per subcommittee vote approval of: Meryl Mims, Suzi Beaumont, Steve Besh, Kirk Martin, and Laura Baum. Note Andrew Farmer's view was represented by Suzi. These changes reflex Suzi and Steve edits from 2/2004 and further subcommittee changes on 7/25. This policy is awaiting approval and posting by the ORGT ORC.

Please Note: These policies are intended to be used as a supplement to ORGT general policies. Please refer also to ORGT General Policy document.

Policies for all ORGT Sea Kayaking Trips (any trip using ORGT gear)

- ORGT touring kayaks will not be used on moving rivers where obstructions exist.
- Life jackets will be worn while paddling ORGT touring kayaks.
- ORGT touring kayaks will not be used on "solo" trips (exceptions by ORGT professional staff approval)
- ORGT touring kayaks will be checked out to qualified individuals only (see "Kayak Touring Progression" below. They will be checked out by ORGT kayak touring check-out attendants according to our policies and procedures
- All equipment check-outs will include standard safety gear (paddle float and bilge pump – 1 per boat)
- Presently, ORGT touring kayaks are rented to people not affiliated with GT or ORGT provided they have been "qualified" by a Kayak Touring Trip Leader. We reserve the right to discontinue this practice if demand for equipment becomes excessive (non-affiliates will always be welcome on official trips, space permitting).
- Multi-day marine trips will have a float plan on file at ORGT. The float plan will include the following:
 - ✓ List of participants
 - ✓ List of boats
 - ✓ List of vehicles, and intended parking spot(s)
 - ✓ Intended route and campsites
 - ✓ Back-up plan(s) for bad weather if applicable
 - ✓ Emergency phone numbers, including the Coast Guard

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Comment: Moved from safety policies for official trips, and changed coastal to marine.

Safety Policies for Official Trips

- Official Kayak Touring trips will follow all ORGT safety policies, as per ORGT General Policy Document. This includes, but is not limited to, having a first aid kit and repair kit on the trip, and having a 1:4 instructor / student ratio
- Coastal Trips will have the following:
 - ✓ Signal devices
 - ✓ VHF marine / weather radio
 - ✓ Repair kit
 - ✓ Spare paddle
- Repair kit includes:
 - ✓ Duct tape
 - ✓ Bailing wire
 - ✓ Cotter pinsThe assumption is that the repair kit supplements materials found in the first aid kit, as well as standard gear available on a backcountry camping trip.

Deleted: <#>Multi-day coastal trips will have a float plan on file at ORGT. The float plan will include the following:¶
<#>List of participants¶
<#>List of boats¶
<#>List of vehicles, and intended parking spot(s)¶
<#>Intended route and campsites¶
<#>Back-up plan(s) for bad weather if applicable¶
<#>Emergency phone numbers, including the Coast Guard¶

Kayak Touring Progression

Lake Paddler

Requirements

- Meets general eligibility requirements for use of ORGT gear (health insurance, waiver, in database with skill level, knows policies)
- Has attended the ORGT Beginner Kayak Touring Schools or equivalent
- Has attended an ORGT pools session or equivalent
- Knows basic paddling and rescue skills, including:
 - ✓ Bracing
 - ✓ Wet exit
 - ✓ Paddle float self-rescue
 - ✓ Assisted (pull-alongside) rescue
 - ✓ Boat tie-down and transport (all moved up from below)
 - ✓ ORGT check-out procedures and policies
 - ✓ Rudders
 - ✓ Preparing for immersion / cold
 - ✓ Hazards (wind, lightening, power boats)
- Has been "qualed" by an ORGT Paddle Touring Trip Leader.

Deleted: <#>Assisted roll-up or Eskimo rescue ¶

Benefits

- Can use ORGT kayak touring gear when checked out by a check-out attendant and used on inland lakes, with other paddlers.

Inland Coastal Paddler

Requirements

- Meets requirements for Lake Paddler
- Has attended the ORGT Beginner and Intermediate Kayak Touring Schools or equivalent
- Has been on at least one supervised inland coastal or coastal trip.
- Has been "qualed" by an ORGT Paddle Touring Trip Leader
- Is familiar with marine environment and hazards
- Has been exposed to the following information:
 - ✓ Use of Marine charts
 - ✓ Wind, waves, tides
 - ✓ VHF / weather radio use
 - ✓ Emergency signal devices

Comment: Exposure to the following information: was moved to lake paddler requirements

Comment: Added per 2/2004 edits

Deleted: <#>Boat tie-down and transport (all moved above)¶
<#>ORGT check-out procedures and policies¶
<#>Rudders¶
<#>Preparing for immersion / cold ¶
<#>Hazards (wind, lightening, power boats)¶

Benefits

- Can use ORGT kayak touring gear in a marsh or protected marine environment, as approved by an ORGT Paddle Touring TL or ORGT professional staff, provided he / she files a float plan with ORGT for marine multi-day trips.

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Deleted: on day trips

Instructor In Training (IIT)

Requirements

Meets requirements for Lake Paddler

Benefits (as per GC policy)

Is appointed by the TL to assist on a per trip basis
Receives free gear on trips on which s/he assists

Coastal Paddler

Requirements

- Serves as Instructor-in Training (IIT)
- Meets requirements for IIT and Inland Coastal Paddler
- Has assisted in planning and/or instructing on an official ORGT multi-day coastal touring trip
- Has been "qualified" by an ORGT Paddle Touring Trip Leader.
- Has experience with the following:
 - ✓ Coastal trip planning and logistics
 - ✓ Minimum impact camping in the coastal environment
 - ✓ Sound crossings
 - ✓ Paddling in windy conditions
 - ✓ Keeping a group together

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Deleted: <#>Marine navigation¶
<#>Emergency signal devices¶
<#>VHF / weather radio use¶
<#>Tide charts¶

Benefits

- Can use ORGT kayak touring gear for multi-day coastal trips as approved by an ORGT Paddle Touring Trip Leader or ORGT professional staff provided he / she files a float plan with ORGT for marine multi-day trips.

Deleted: <#>Trip planning and logistics¶

Deleted: r. provided h/she files a float plan with ORGT.

Check-out Attendant (COA)

Requirements

- Is appointed by the kayak touring subcommittee or TL
- Has paddled as IIT on ORGT official trips
- Has been through a check-out attendant training session
- Is familiar with paddle touring policies and check-out procedures

Duties

- Agrees to be on call list to meet paddlers at ORGT and check gear out

Benefits

- Combination to ORGT (subject to GC approval) and paddling room

Instructor

Requirements

- As per GC policy (First Aid / CPR, SC vote, volunteer form, ORGT staff interview, knows policies)
- Meets requirements for ORGT lake paddler and check-out attendant
- Demonstrates safe judgment and good preparedness on paddling trips
- Has instructed on at least one beginner trip, and at least one overnight trip
- Has successfully conducted a pool safety / rescue session
- Has subcommittee approval (majority vote) with endorsement from a Trip Leader

Benefits

- As per GC policy (free gear on instructing, half price on gear otherwise)
- Can lead ORGT official day / lake trips with professional staff approval (delete)

Lake Trip Leader

Requirements

- Has met Kayak Touring requirements for Instructor
- Has satisfied general committee requirements for Trip Leader (age, academic standing, ORGT community member, WFA, knows policies, GC test, GC vote, SC vote, practice and checkout trips, ORGT staff approval)
- Has appropriate paddling skills, as demonstrated by the following:
 - Proficient in some type of self-rescue (IE paddle float, re-entry and roll, Eskimo roll)
 - Can demonstrate, perform and teach assisted rescues, including T rescue, Pull-along, and Eskimo rescue)
 - Can operate a tow system; Has practiced towing a "weak paddler" a minimum of 100 yards
- Has passed the Kayak Touring written Lake Trip Leader test
- Has completed ORGT Backpack school or equivalent (has knowledge and skills related to backcountry living, including minimum impact camping)
- Has completed ORGT Map and Compass (or equivalent) or is skilled in marine navigation and chart use

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Deleted: <#>Has appropriate paddling skills, as demonstrated by the following:¶
<#>Proficient in some type of self-rescue (IE paddle float, re-entry and roll, Eskimo roll)¶
<#>Can demonstrate, perform and teach assisted rescues, including T rescue, Pull-along, and Eskimo rescue)¶
<#>Can operate a tow system; Has practiced towing a "weak paddler" a minimum of 100 yards¶

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Deleted: <#>Has instructed on at least one at least one overnight lake trip¶
<#>Has practice led at least one overnight lake trip¶

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Deleted: Has completed ORGT whitewater kayak school or equivalent. As a guideline to the subcommittee, who will determine paddling ability level, it is suggested that the TL candidate be able to comfortably paddle Chattooga Section III (i.e. no punch run).¶

Duties

- As per GC policy (2 trips/ year, takes leadership role, acts as COA, upholds policies, votes at GC)
- Leads trips to inland lakes approved as suitable by ORGT professional staff.

Benefits

- As per GC policy (combinations, free equipment, WOP, Wall, first aid kit supplies, incentives)

Coastal Trip Leader

Requirements

- Has satisfied all requirements for Kayak Touring Coastal Paddler and Lake Trip Leader
- Has appropriate paddling skills, as a guideline to the subcommittee who will determine paddling ability level it is suggested that a TL candidate can comfortably paddle in 3 foot waves and 25 k winds.
- Has appropriate paddling skills, as demonstrated by the following:
 - Has produced appropriate float plans for coastal trip
 - Can navigate with chart and nav aids
 - Understanding of regional weather patterns and NOAA predictions / use of weather radio
 - Reliable Eskimo roll and brace
 - Trip planning – can plan appropriate trips and distances in consideration of tides, land features, weather conditions
 - Is familiar with operation and appropriate use of ORGT's signal devices
 - Can launch and land in surf. Note: no wave height specified – the important thing is that they can judge appropriate surf conditions (and avoid inappropriate) for both themselves and students. Knows how to supervise and position group for surf launch and landing.

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Duties

- As per GC policy (2 trips/ year, helps maintain database, takes leadership role, acts as COA, upholds policies, votes at GC)

Benefits

- As per GC policy (combinations, free equipment, WOP, Wall, first aid kit supplies, incentives)

Senior Trip Leader

Requirements

- Per GC Policy (led 10 trips, SR TL status has been announced at subcommittee and general committee (allows for veto / discussion if necessary).

Duties

- Supervises TL candidates on practice and check-out trips

Benefits

Same as Trip Leader