

Community Paddlesport Leader

Leader Certification criteria

Course Objective: To provide leaders that engage the broader paddling community at the entry level with safe, fun paddling experiences, that are not craft specific, in a mild environment with minimal power boat traffic. Targeted applications could include community outreach programs, local clubs, parks, scouts etc..

Course Overview: Candidates will explore and develop solutions to big picture challenges including venue selection, group management and competency, and rescues across a variety of craft. This award is intended for short paddling outings* and is not a Trip Leader award. The content included here are criteria for evaluation and certification, not the guidance on how to deliver the course. The content delivery structure and methodology will be at the discretion of the provider. Those methods shall be in alignment with current SEIC policies and best practices.

* For these purposes, *outings* are defined as paddling experiences of not more than 4 hours within a defined space where the start and finish are the same place and emergency services are readily available.

EEC / DEI : *Whatever version agreed upon at 3/19 /22 meeting*

Prerequisites for Certification: ACA Level 1 Skills Assessment and Paddlesport Safety Facilitator (PSF) certification in chosen craft. To lead mixed craft experiences, PSF certification for those additional craft.

Certification Venue: Protected water with constant access to safe landing, within .25 nm from shore, and minimal power boat traffic. Successful Leader candidates will demonstrate the ability to competently perform at the top of this range;

- Winds less than 10 knots
- Waves less than 1 foot
- Current less than 1 knot

Course Duration: Minimum 16 hours (8 of which can be virtual at the discretion of provider)

Course Ratio: 5 Candidates : 1 Assessor; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant, the ratio can be 10 : 2

Assessor: ACA Level 2 Instructor Trainer or higher with PSF certification in all 3 modules OR ACA Level 2 Instructor or higher with Community Paddlesport Leader certification and PSF certification in all 3 modules

Community Paddlesport Leader

General Requirements for all Leader Certifications:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Meet the appropriate Essential Eligibility Criteria
- Successfully complete a Community Paddlesport Leader certification workshop
- Be a full ACA member
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately perform all of the following material unassisted in the appropriate venue

Maintenance Requirements:

- Lead at least two outings, that meet ACA standards, within the four-year certification period and properly report the outings on the Course Management System
- Complete Community Paddlesport Leader Update, at the highest level of certification, during the four-year certification period
- Maintain ACA membership annually
- *Maintain appropriate CPR and first aid certification for the duration of certification*

Succeeding Courses:

- ACA Level 1 Instructor
- ACA Level 2 Skills Assessment
- ACA Trip Leader

Criteria

Prior Competencies: Candidates are responsible for ALL knowledge and skills included in the PSF and Level 1 Skills Assessment. Those awards form the foundation for the Community Paddlesport Leader (CPL). This course builds upon those previously evaluated competencies and takes them to an on water leadership setting in a mild, protected environment.

Demonstrate the following:

1) Knowledge of the ACA:

- Course Management System basics (dashboard, course listings, etc)
- How to report a CPL course
- Certification limitations: i.e., not an instructor, not eligible for instructor course insurance
- Promotion of ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Insurance
- Education, Stewardship, and Competition program

Community Paddlesport Leader

2) Leadership skills:

- Positive interpersonal skills
- Ability to calmly strategize and problem solve under pressure
- Ability collaborate with others and recognize available resources
- Ability to seek advice, set boundaries, and learn from mistakes
- Situational awareness
- Meeting people where they are, not where you want them to be
- Effective communication pre-outing, during outing, post outing
- Modeling joy and appreciation for the paddling community as a whole

3) Demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to perform the following skills:

Pre-Outing

- Venue selection with alternatives (accessible, parking, restrooms, access to emergency services, cell coverage, use permits, etc)
- Participant communication with outing description, expectations, gear lists, Plan B, etc
- Use of Float Plans
- Insurance and or waivers when appropriate
- Marketing and outreach

During Outing

- Venue viability assessment prior to group's arrival to include : Weather, wind, water / other users / potential challenges or hazards
- Create a welcoming environment for every participant.
- Determine participant goals, capabilities and in water comfort prior to launch
- Assess gear choices and paddler to craft compatibility
- Assess the **group's** ability to solution unexpected situations and rescues, make adjustments accordingly
- Know when to go and when to say no / Engage participants in these decisions
- Establish on water communication methods
- Group management (structured or unstructured) and group connectivity methods
- Create games, challenges or activities to maintain connectivity / Challenge by choice
- Continually re-evaluate venue and group participation
- Basic Navigation – knowing where you are and where you are headed

Post Outing

- Participant feedback and recap
- Post outing reflections
- Report event on CMS

Community Paddlesport Leader

4) Demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to perform the following *Rescue and Safety* skills :

- Boat handling to effectively complete rescues and manage group connectivity
- Assisted rescue solutions with mixed craft
- Self-rescue in craft of choice
- Direct others in completing assisted rescues
- Contact towing strategies with mixed craft
- Communicate outside of your group
- Incident management strategies

5). Demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- *Relevance of appropriate First Aid and CPR training*
- Leave no Trace
- Basics of maps and charts
- Weather apps that include radar and lightning data
- Demonstrate a knowledge and the ability to perform the following skills

Smile, breathe, and have fun we are just going paddling!

