

# Canoeing Standards

Voyageur Canoeing – Grades 2 – 12

Flat water tandem canoeing – Grades 5 –12

River canoeing and canoe tripping – Grades 7 – 12

**NOTE: RUNNING RAPIDS WITH A DIFFICULTY RATING GREATER THAN 2 IS PROHIBITED**

Equipment	Instruction	Supervision
<p>All participants must wear a properly fitting, Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard or Fisheries and Oceans approved life jacket/P.F.D., at all times when on the water or scouting.</p> <p>Self-inflating PFD’s are not permitted on any Yukon Education trip.</p> <p>Life jacket must be the top layer, rain jackets, poncho’s, etc. are not allowed over top of the lifejacket.</p> <p>Lifejacket/P.F.D MUST be red, yellow or orange.</p> <p>All participants must have a pealess whistle.</p> <p>Each canoe must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one throw bag line of not less than 15 m in length, that has been properly stuffed</li> <li>• one bailer, and</li> <li>• painters made of floating rope at least 10 mm in diameter. Canoes must be free of holes, major creases/dents, and/or broken seats, thwarts or gunwales.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prior to any open water canoeing:</b> students should be taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• canoe terms</li> <li>• emergency procedures, and</li> <li>• selection and proper use of paddles and P.F.D.s</li> <li>• and in a pool, shallow water or calm flat water setting the student must demonstrate basic competence in:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forward stroke,</li> <li>• backward stroke,</li> <li>• pry stroke,</li> <li>• draw stoke, and</li> <li>• proper entry/exit from canoe. Canoe in water, stern person enters first, exits last. Bow person braces canoe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watch ‘Cold Water Boot Camp’ or similar video.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prior to any multi day canoe tripping:</b> students should be taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic first aid including hypothermia treatment,</li> </ul>	<p><b>All canoeing activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be a minimum of two leaders,</li> <li>• At least one leader must have completed a Paddle Canada, RCABC (or equivalent) Canoe Instructor Course.</li> <li>• At least two leaders must have current first aid certificates that match the first aid standards depending on the trip. One must be the first aid leader and be in charge of first aid kit, medical forms etc.</li> <li>• Groups must stay in close proximity and maintain contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Flat Water paddling (small lakes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For grades 5-6: minimum 1:7 leader/participant ratio.</li> <li>• For grades 7-12: minimum 1:9 leader/participant ratio.</li> </ul> <p><b>River canoeing and canoe tripping:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For grades 7-9: minimum 1:5 leader/participant ratio.</li> </ul>

Participants must wear clothing capable of retaining warmth when wet, and offering protection from the wind.

Students must wear protective footwear (e.g. sneakers or light hikers). No open toed shoes/sandals should be worn while canoeing

Ropes used for towing will not be tied directly to canoes or individuals – quick releasing hitches from one canoe to the other will be used.

- Each group must carry a complete first-aid kit (decided by first aid leader) and communication device in a waterproof case/bag.

**Additional equipment considerations for multi day canoe tripping:**

- A leader should ensure that participants have packed appropriately for the trip and possess any and all equipment and clothing required.
- A leader should ensure there is adequate food to meet the nutritional needs for the group for the duration of the trip plus one extra days supply.
- Canoes should be outfitted with appropriate canoe tripping packs.
- Each group must have a water purification method
- Each group must have a canoe repair kit.
- Each canoe must have at least one spare paddle.

Each participant must have a change of clothing and a sleeping bag in a waterproof bag.

- watch ‘Cold Water Boot Camp’ or a similar video.
- self-rescue system that is appropriate to your journey.
- camping skills and safety,
- wildlife safety,
- reading the flow of river water, identification of and response to river hazards,
- Securing equipment, managing loaded canoes and proper trim.
- basic portage skills
- how to handle unexpected wind and wave conditions.

**In controlled moving water setting the student must demonstrate basic competence in:**

- eddie turn,
- front ferry and river currents,
- river “j”,
- synchronized strokes, positioning of paddlers,
- packing or loading of the canoe,
- canoe-over-canoe rescue procedures\*
- Although not always practical to perform, it is recommended that each student be given the opportunity to demonstrate the following skills: In the water fully clothed and wearing a P.F.D. students should swim 25 m continuously, and tread water for 3 minutes.

\*When practicing canoe-over-canoe rescues, no more than one canoe should be capsized at any time.

- For grades 10-12: minimum 1:7 leader/participant ratio.
- Teacher in charge must inspect canoes before trip

**Big Canoe canoeing (small lakes):**

- For grades 2-3: minimum 1:5 leader/participant ratio.
- For grades 4-7: minimum 1:7 leader/participant ratio
- For grades 8-12: minimum 1:9 leader/participant ratio
- There must be a large bailing device for every leader and participant. Minimum 4L (1 gallon)
- Each canoe must have a re-entry device. This could be a piece of webbing with loops.
- If big canoes are used they must be accompanied by at least one tandem canoe.

**Small Lakes to Consider:**

- Chadburn Lake
- Hidden Lakes
- Long Lake
- Ear Lake
- Pine Lake
- Scout Lake
- Jackson Lake
- Mary Lake
- Lewes Lake
- Little Fox Lake

**River Tripping:**

At least one leader must have completed a Paddle Canada, RCABC or

equivalent, river tripping or moving water course.

- At least one leader must have completed a recognized river rescue course within the last 3 years.
- leaders must be in the lead and sweep canoes on all river trips at all times
- At least one leader must have a current 40 hour wilderness first aid.
- At least one leader must be familiar with the area.
- At least one leader must have experience with:
  - seasonal considerations,
  - wilderness survival techniques, and
  - Camp craft waterproofing methods during wet weather.