

BEAVER CANOE CLUB TRIP SAFETY RULES

All Beaver Canoe Club Trips:

- ✓ must be advertised in *BeaverTales*;
- ✓ will have a minimum of three canoes; and
- ✓ have an experienced paddler appointed as Trip Leader.

The Trip Leader will:

- ✓ ask what safety equipment is present and who will be carrying it
(*e.g.* first aid kits, throw ropes, flare kits, *etc.*);
- ✓ ascertain the canoeing experience of each person and, where necessary, assign paddling positions;
- ✓ check participants' equipment before embarking;
- ✓ hold a pre-trip meeting for the purpose of discussing:
 - a) objectives of the trip,
 - b) types of hazards that may be encountered
(*e.g.*, weather, sweepers, fishermen, waterfalls, *etc.*),
 - c) accident prevention, signals, emergency and rescue procedures, and
 - d) etiquette and ethics.

Trip Participants will:

- ✓ equip their canoes with:
 - a) a bailer,
 - b) a spare paddle,
 - c) secured bow and stern lines which will float
(9mm or 12mm diameter, 5m to 8m long is recommended),
 - d) have a 15m (45' or longer) throw line with a float at one end, and
 - e) install extra floatation if required (it may not prevent a capsize, but it could save your boat!);
- ✓ carry a spare set of clothing including a wool toque in a waterproof container;
- ✓ wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) with an attached whistle
(firmly affixing a spare set of car keys is a good idea);
- ✓ all gear and equipment shall be:
 - a) tied in so that with the canoe turned upside down nothing hangs below the gunwales, or
 - b) left untethered to float free if the canoe capsizes (some stuff you lose, some you don't).

Club members will inform their guests of these rules. If a trip leader feels someone does not meet the requirements the trip, the leader has the right to refuse to take that individual.

The trip leader will have a reasonable knowledge of the difficulty of the trip. Ask questions and evaluate the information. Together you can decide if your skills are suitable for the outing. A realistic appraisal of your own physical well-being is also necessary. Poor health increases your risk. If you do have to cancel, let the leader know.

A flashlight is not required on day trips but nice to have as well as any rescue or first aid items suggested by the conditions. Dress for the water (not air) temperature--in BC that means cold! Remember your sunscreen and lip protection. Pack gorp, water and, most importantly, lunch! (Please no alcohol or drugs before or during trips.)

Arrive on time. Earlier is even better! Shuttle as a group: pull over and wait if the car following you drops out of sight. At the put-in and take outs, pitch in with the unloading and carrying. Show respect for property owners and nearby outdoorsmen. Don't litter, park haphazardly or change clothes publicly.

Remember this is a recreational group activity with different people and personalities. BE FLEXIBLE. Friendliness is key to a successful trip. Thank the leader when coming off the water—without their volunteer efforts we wouldn't be paddling at all! (And the club would love it if you shared your experience through a trip write-up or photo show.)