

Paddle Leaders – The “Be” List

Thanks so much for taking on the role of Paddle Leader. You are the face of the Peninsula Paddlers Kayak Club, often the first point of contact for new members and a familiar face for existing members. This information is provided to ensure everyone on your paddle, including you, has a positive, safe and enjoyable experience.

For new Paddle Leaders, please know you have the support of other Paddle Leaders. If you would prefer to have one of us accompany you on your first few paddles, please ask.

- **Be welcoming.** Make sure everyone is introduced to each other.
- **Be helpful.** Assist with loading and unloading where needed.
- **Be clear** before you launch. Explain the route, timing for off the water, paddle in pairs if the group spreads out a bit, assign a sweep if numbers dictate, establish a protocol if someone needs to leave the group early and ask if there are any questions, all before you launch.
- **Be safe.** Everyone must have a PFD, an emergency kit including a pea-less whistle (attach it to your PFD), 15 m of floatable rope, and a pump or bailer and the Club’s Emergency Medical form securely attached to the underside of the front hatch. Here’s the link:
<https://www.peninsulapaddlers.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MedicalHistory.pdf>
- **Be Insured.** The Ontario Recreational Canoe and Kayak Association (ORCKA) provides insurance for all our members. There are two forms: The **Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement** is typically signed once only when membership fees are paid. However, there are always a few omissions, so Paddle Leaders need to double check that all paddlers signed up for a paddle have signed this form. The most up to date membership list will be provided to you and it will indicate who still needs to sign this form. Please carry copies of the form so it can be signed by a member, if need be, prior to launching.

Please send the signed form (scan or photo) to Jake Vandermey at jvdmey@gmail.com as soon as possible and pass on the hard copy with original signatures to Jake when convenient. Here's the link:

<https://www.peninsulapaddlers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Orcka-release-of-leability.pdf>

The second form, the **Peninsula Paddlers Trip Liability Release** requires signing for *each and every paddle*. (The 1st initial releases the Club from any liability, and the 2nd initial is a permission to use any photos for website, social media etc). Please explain this to new members when signing off, they may not be aware. Any guest needs to sign both forms so please carry copies with you. As an FYI, a guest can attend two different day paddles without being a member. These forms need to be scanned, or take a photo, and forward to Gayle Brown, Tour Director as soon as possible after the paddle at cgaylebrown@gmail.com, or text to 289 377 9370. Please keep the hard copies with original signatures and pass on to Gayle when convenient. Here's the link:

<https://www.peninsulapaddlers.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PP-TripWaiver.pdf>

- **Be Informed.** The website, under the Members Corner drop down menu, under Club Forms, includes a lot of information that will assist you in a successful, fun and safe paddle. Please check out this link: <https://www.peninsulapaddlers.com/members-corner>
- **Be Helpful in an Emergency, Accident or Incident.** This rarely, if ever, happens, but if an emergency, accident or incident happens on your paddle, keep in mind the following. Paddle Leaders are not trained first responders, are not necessarily trained in first aid, and may or may not have training in kayak emergency rescue. Paddlers always paddle at their own risk. The role of a Paddle Leader is to be as helpful as possible in any emergency, accident or incident. To that end, it helps to keep the following in mind:

- Stay calm and assess the situation as best you can.
- Use other paddlers in your group to assist, they may have training in first aid, rescue training, etc if you don't.
- Keep your cell phone fully charged, you don't want a dead phone if you need to call 911.
- It is recommended you download the What Three Words app. It's free. The app can identify your exact location on or off the water so emergency responders know exactly where you are. It acts as an address where there isn't one. Check it out, it's pretty amazing!
- There is an Incident Report form that needs to be filled out and submitted to the Tour Director at penpaddlers.tour@gmail.com and the President at info@peninsulapaddlers.com as soon as possible. Here is the link:

<https://www.peninsulapaddlers.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/incident-report-form.pdf>

I truly hope you never have to use it!