



ORCKA Kayaking Certification Challenge Process

ORCKA acknowledges that practical experience is a valuable and realistic approach to gaining knowledge and skills, and should be evaluated as an alternative to a formal course process. ORCKA maintains standards by ensuring that all items of safety, theory and skill identified in each course are adequately covered. Any evaluation process for alternative learning must ensure that all examinable ORCKA course items are adequately fulfilled if certification is to be awarded.

There are two distinct aspects of the ORCKA Certification Challenge Process:

Skills Level Certification

Acceptance of “equivalent skills or experience” for purposes of meeting course prerequisite is at the discretion of the Course Director. They must be satisfied that all aspects of the prerequisite being granted have been or will be adequately covered before the new skill level certification is granted to a skills course participant. This can be accomplished through a pre-course practical evaluation or completed as part of the course itself. When signing the certification card the Course Director is verifying that this certification criterion has been properly completed.

Instructor Level Certification

Instructor 2 courses are pedagogy based. There is insufficient time during the Instructor 1 and Instructor 2 course to dedicate adequately to coaching candidates lacking requisite skills. Level 2 Skills courses are designed to equip paddlers with the high level of skills, including demonstration quality, that are needed to undertake successfully Instructor 1 and Instructor 2 certification courses. ORCKA also acknowledges that some aspects of Instructor 1 and Instructor 2 course skills may necessitate additional experience beyond that gained on Level 2 courses; and that a significant lapse in time between Level 2 skills certification and attendance on an Instructor 1 or Instructor 2 course may allow for a loss of perishable skills performance.

Therefore, an evaluation or examination of Instructor quality skills performance is required for Instructor 1 and Instructor 2 course candidates. An Instructor 1 and Instructor 2 Course Director may incorporate this into the course as they desire.

Current ORCKA Canoeing or Kayaking Instructors 2 may use this and a similar process to become certified Instructor 2 in another discipline without completing the full new discipline Instructor 2 course. They must make application through the ORCKA office to undertake the Challenge. Once the application is accepted ORCKA may direct the applicant to the appropriate Instructor 2 Course Director for an upcoming course, or if sufficient need is identified ORCKA may arrange for a separate Instructor 2 “Certification Challenge” examination.

ORCKA Kayak Tripping Instructor 2 Challenge Process

The following are prerequisites for an individual who is qualified to challenge ORCKA Kayak Tripping Instructor 2 certification.

1. A challenge must be pre-approved by any of 2 of the 4 listed below:
 - Chair Instructor Courses
 - Chair Kayaking Instructor Services
 - VP Program or VP Instruction
 - President ORCKA
2. Must be a current ORCKA Kayak Tripping Level 2.
3. Must be an ORCKA Kayak Instructor (excluding Flatwater Kayaking Instructor) or a Canoe Instructor 1 or 2.
4. The applicant must provide a log showing a minimum of:
 - a. 60 nights and 1250 km of wilderness or near wilderness kayaking tripping leadership or shared leadership.
 - b. 50 nights and 1000 kilometres of kayak tripping leadership or shared leadership
5. The applicant must provide references that can verify trip leadership experience.
6. Applicant must have all prerequisites for Kayak Tripping Instructor 2.
7. The Challenge will take place over two days with an overnight kayak trip or utilizing a base camp over two days.
8. Candidates must be able to demonstrate demonstration quality skills at the applicable level in the appropriate discipline.
9. Candidates will be expected to successfully deliver several lessons related to their discipline.
10. There will be a practical and written exam.
11. There will be a minimum of two Kayak Tripping Instructors, one being a Kayak Tripping Instructor Trainer appointed by the ORCKA board.
12. The Participant to Instructor ratio shall not exceed 4 to 1.
13. The participant(s) shall be responsible for all costs (Instructor, host site, ORCKA administration, HST and any other costs incurred).

Note: Equivalencies to the ORCKA certification may be accepted during the introduction of the ORCKA Kayaking Program

ORCKA Kayak Tripping Level 2 Challenge Process

ORCKA has stated that any skill level may be challenged. The following are prerequisites for an individual who is qualified to challenge ORCKA Kayak Tripping Level 2.

1. A challenge must be pre-approved by any of 2 of the 4 listed below:
 - Chair Instructor Courses
 - Chair Kayaking Instructor Services
 - VP Program or VP Instruction
 - President ORCKA
2. The applicant must provide a log showing 40 nights and 750 km of wilderness or near wilderness kayak tripping including at least one near-wilderness kayak trip of five days or more.
3. The applicant must provide references that can verify trip leadership experience.
4. Must have a least 10 kayak trips in a leadership role.
5. Must submit a written 10 day trip plan.
6. Must make a written or oral presentation on risk and crisis management.
7. Must be active in kayak tripping in a leadership role.
8. Must be 18 years of age.
9. The participant(s) shall be responsible for all costs (Instructor, host site, ORCKA administration, HST and any other costs incurred).
10. Must have all prerequisites for the ORCKA Kayak Tripping Level 2 (ORCKA Kayak Tripping Level 1 and Coastal Kayak Level 1 or equivalent certification or comparable skills and experience). VHF marine radio license and wilderness first aid certifications are recommended.

ORCKA Coastal Kayaking or Moving Water Kayaking Instructor Challenge Process

The following are the general prerequisites for an individual who is qualified to challenge ORCKA Coastal Kayaking and Moving Water Kayaking Instructor at the Instructor 1 or 2 levels. Kayak Tripping Instructor 2 has its own documented challenge process.

1. A challenge must be pre-approved by any of 2 of the 4 listed below:
 - Chair Instructor Courses
 - Chair Kayaking Instructor Services
 - VP Program or VP Instruction
 - President ORCKA
2. Must have all prerequisites for the appropriate Instructor course in the ORCKA Kayak Program.
3. The applicant must provide references that can verify their paddling experience in this discipline.
4. Must be 18 years of age.
5. Must make a written or oral presentation on risk and crisis management for a Moving Water Kayaking Instructor candidate and on crisis management for a Coastal Kayaking Instructor candidate.
6. The Challenge will take place over a minimum of one day in suitable course conditions.
7. Candidates must be able to demonstrate demonstration quality skills at the applicable level in the appropriate discipline.
8. Candidates will be expected to successfully deliver several lessons related to their discipline.
9. There will be a practical and written exam.
10. There will be a minimum of two Kayak Instructors, one being a Kayak Instructor Trainer in the appropriate discipline appointed by the ORCKA board.
11. The Participant to Instructor ratio shall not exceed 4 to 1.
12. The participant(s) shall be responsible for all costs (Instructor, host site, ORCKA administration, HST and any other costs incurred).