



Canoe Trip Leader Standards for the Conduct of the Trip Component of ORCKA Program

Disclaimer

The information in these ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards are of a general nature only and is not intended to be relied upon, nor as substitute for, specific professional advice. No responsibility for the loss occasioned to any person acting on or refraining from action as a result of any material in these guidelines can be accepted.

Background

These ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards were prepared by the Safety committee of the Ontario Recreational Canoe and Kayak Association (ORCKA) in response to a number of requests for comment from the Ontario Coroners' Office. When developing these standards, the Committee investigated related standards of care from a number of similar outdoor and adventure sports, both of a National and International nature. Best practices were then identified and included in these Canoe Trip Leader Standards.

Organizations and groups who canoe trip in a wilderness environment expose themselves to a certain amount of risk. Wilderness risk management involves pre-trip planning, equipment selection, safety equipment, leader qualification, participant skill level and more. This document specifically addresses the canoe leader qualifications by setting as a standard the minimum qualifications to lead a canoe trip safely in both a wilderness and/or non-wilderness environment.

For the purposes of these ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards, a Canoe Trip Leader is a current ORCKA certified individual who is designated the leader of a canoe trip in a non-wilderness or wilderness setting as part of an ORCKA sanctioned course or activity.

For the purposes of these ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards, an Assistant Canoe Trip Leader is a current ORCKA certified individual who is second Canoe Trip Leader who assists the designated Canoe Trip Leader in leading a canoe trip in a non-wilderness or wilderness setting as part of an ORCKA sanctioned course or activity. The Assistant Canoe Trip Leader will assume the duties of the designated Canoe Trip Leader in the event that the Canoe Trip Leader becomes incapacitated and is unable to carry out his or her responsibilities.

Organizations are encouraged to adopt these recommended ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards when hiring staff or selecting Canoe Trip Leaders for the conduct of the trip component of ORCKA Program in both non-wilderness and wilderness areas.

These ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards were formally adopted by its Board of Directors on January 27th, 2007 and come into effect January 1st, 2008 as the standard for the conduct of the trip component of all ORCKA courses, including ORCKA Canoeing Instructor courses, ORCKA sponsored canoeing courses and all ORCKA canoeing courses being conducted in the Province of Ontario by ORCKA Organizational Members. These standards were revised in December 2012.

ORCKA Canoe Trip Leader Standards

Non-Wilderness Canoe Trips

These Canoe Trip Leader standards apply to day trips of under five hours duration on flat water and moving water environments in a non-wilderness environment. Non-wilderness is defined as an area where transportation to definitive medical care is less than two hours throughout the trip. There is no overnight component to a non-wilderness canoe trip.

1. Flat Water Canoe Trips in a Non-Wilderness Environment

	Minimum Qualification
Canoe Trip Leader - Flat water canoe day trip (Day trip of less than five hours duration)	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications are required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Basic Instructor, 2. ORCKA Canadian Style Paddling Instructor 1 or 2, 3. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2, 4. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2, 5. ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2, 6. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 Skills – Trip Leader qualification b) Current Standard First Aid (min. 16 hours) or higher c) Current CPR Level A d) 250 km tripping experience
Assistant Canoe Trip Leader – Flat water canoe day trip (Day trip of less than five hours duration)	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Basic Instructor, 2. ORCKA Canadian Style Paddling Instructor 1 or 2, 3. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2, 4. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2, 5. ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2, 6. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 Skills – Trip Leader qualification b) Current Emergency First Aid (min. 8 hours) c) Current CPR Level A d) 100 km tripping experience

2. Moving Water Canoe Trips in a Non-Wilderness Environment

	Minimum Qualification
Canoe Trip Leader – Moving water canoe day trip (Day trip of less than five hours duration)	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Moving Water 3A (Tandem) or River Running Level 3A (Tandem) skills 2. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2 3. ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2 4. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills - Trip Leader with ORCKA Moving Water Level 3A (Tandem) or River Running Level 3A (Tandem) Skills b) Current Standard First Aid (min. 16 hours) or higher c) Current CPR Level A d) 250 km tripping experience in a moving water environment
Assistant Canoe Trip Leader – Moving water canoe day trip (Day trip of less than five hours duration)	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Moving Water Level 2A (Tandem) or River Running Level 2A (Tandem) skills 2. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2 3. ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2 4. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills - Trip Leader with ORCKA Moving Water Level 2A (Tandem) or River Running Level 2A (Tandem) skills e) Current Emergency First Aid (min. 8 hours) f) Current CPR Level A g) 100 km tripping experience in a moving water environment.

Wilderness Canoe Trips

These Canoe Trip Leader Standards apply to canoe trips in a wilderness environment. Wilderness is defined as an area where transportation to definitive medical care is typically more than two hours. A wilderness trip is over five hours to multiple weeks in duration. Most wilderness canoe trips, by nature, include an overnight component.

1. Flat Water Canoe Trips in a Wilderness Environment

	Minimum Qualification
Canoe Trip Leader – Flat water canoe trip	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 or ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) b) Current Wilderness Advanced First Aid (min. 40 hours) c) Current CPR Level A d) 1000km tripping experience
Assistant Canoe Trip Leader – Flat Water canoe trip	a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 or ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) b) Current Wilderness First Aid (min. 16 hours)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Current CPR Level A d) 500km tripping experience
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2. Moving Water Canoe Trips in a Wilderness Environment

<p>Canoe Trip Leader Guide – Moving Water canoe trip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Moving Water Level 3A (Tandem) or River Running Level 3A (Tandem) skills, 2. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) 3. ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) 4. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) with ORCKA Moving Water Level 3A (Tandem) or River Running Level 3A (Tandem) skills b) Current Wilderness Advanced First Aid (min. 40 hours) c) Current CPR Level A d) Current White Water Rescue Technician Level 1 or higher e) 1000km tripping experience, at least 500km of that in a moving water environment
<p>Assistant Canoe Trip Leader – Moving Water canoe trip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One of the following ORCKA qualifications is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Moving Water Level 2A (Tandem) or River Running Level 2A (Tandem) skills 2. ORCKA River Running Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills (Trip Leader) 3. Moving Water Instructor 1 or 2 with ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 skills - Trip Leader qualification 4. ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 3 Skills (Trip Leader) with ORCKA Moving Water Level 2A (Tandem) or River Running Level 2A (Tandem) skills b) Current Wilderness First Aid (min. 16 hours) c) Current CPR Level A d) Current White Water Rescue Technician Level 1 or higher e) 500km tripping experience, at least 250km of that in a moving water environment