



Kayaking



Standard Operating Procedure

This form describes the details, Operational Procedures, Risks and Emergency Procedures for the activity listed.

This SOP is to be used each time the activity is conducted. Any changes or suggestions are to be raised in activity debriefs and meetings.

Activity:	Kayaking		
Location of Activity:	Mission Point, Lake Taupo OR end of Heuheu Parade, Tauranga-Taupo river		
Site:	Taupo	Area:	Activities
Reviewed By:	Christy Breetvelt	Version:	3.1
Position:	Instructor	Approved:	24/04/2024. Stephen Fox. Manager.
Date Reviewed:	24/04/2024	Location of Hard copy:	Camp Office
Number of Participants:	Max Ratio:	1 Instructor / 10 Participants (+1 to 2 Adult Assistant when required) Note: Adult assistant is required to work with schools and with the group when deemed necessary. Note: Ratio adjusted with changes in risk levels	
Instructor Competence:	Site-specific induction and assessment of internal competencies. (kayaking Induction for MiCamp Taupo)		
Participant & Assistant Equipment & Clothing Requirements:	MiCamp Supplied: Kayaks, Paddles, PFD's Participant Supplied: (suggested) Water bottle, Hat, Sunblock, Appropriate swimming clothes, Towel & change of warm clothing.		
Instructor Equipment & Clothing Requirements:	Kayak, Paddle, PFD, Whistle, River Knife, Tow Line. Cell phone (for emergency, communication and weather forecast). Suggested: Throw bag, Water bottle, Hat, Dry bag, Sunblock and Appropriate Clothing.		
Other Equipment Requirements: (Must be able to access if needed)	First aid kit, Spare tow Lines.		
Communication Procedures:	Use the instructor's cell phone to contact emergency services and /or other staff. Alternative communication; Send runner/ driver to office		
Related Documents - Qualifications/ Legislation / Guideline / Permits / Consents:	Maritime NZ Safety guidelines: commercial kayaking and canoeing operations. Kayak qualifications from NZOIA, SKOANZ, Skills Active. Met Service Lake Taupo recreational marine forecast. Health and safety at work (Adventure Activities) Regulation 2016. Flatwater Floating and Padding Good Practice Guide 2018.		

Operating Procedures

Pre-activity Check

1	Check weather Forecast for the day.	
2	Communicate with MiCamp Manager and/or Lead Instructor to highlight safety considerations for the day.	
3	Visually check the vehicle (Warrant, Rego, trailer) and equipment as per equipment check.	
4	Communicate with group leader about location, times, equipment & clothing for the day.	

Setup

1	Drive trailer to kayak area.	
2	Confirm weather- Communicate if site is unsuitable or alternative site recommended.	
3	Check for new or changed risks.	
4	Set up equipment for group arrival.	

Instructor Brief to Adult Assistants

1	Communicate with the adult assistant about the expectation of their role.	
2	If there are participants that may need extra assistance, the assistant can carry spare tow line.	
3	Assistants are to assist with group management if needed	

Instructor Brief to Participants

1	Gather participants and show them the general area.	
2	Explain what equipment is needed and why.	
3	Give clear instructions: what you expect from them and what they can expect from the session (goals).	
4	Distribute and fit PFD's.	
5	Show how paddles are used, stroke motions, how to turn and stop. Observe them practicing on land.	
6	When whistle is blown, stop and look at instructor for instructions.	
7	Never paddle further than 25m from the instructor.	
8	Explain what they should do if they fall in: Stay calm and hold on to your kayak and paddle and listen to the instructors for instruction.	
9	Ensure that no participants have anything covering their mouths, e.g. masks	
10	Give way to any other boats (if needed, gather group together and stop moving till they pass).	
11	Disclosed any other risks.	

Operating Instructions

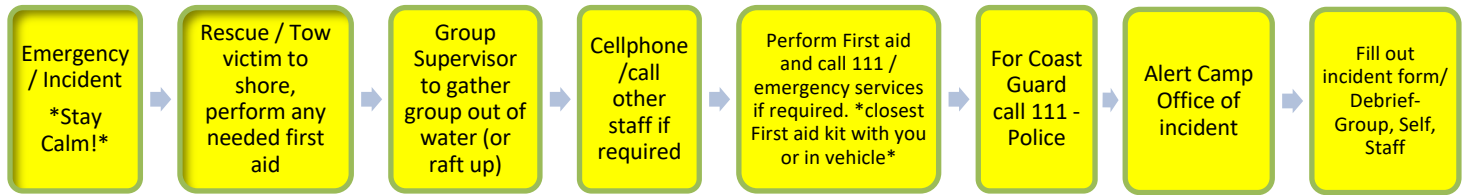
1	Instructor to check off everyone's PFDs (participants and assistants) before they can go to their boats.	
2	Instructor to get in the water first while adults help participants.	
3	Conduct session as per industry good practice with participant needs and goals in mind.	
4	Monitor weather and group condition throughout session.	
5	Return to shore 5-10 mins before the end of the rotation and put away equipment, ensure it is all returned before group leaves.	
6	Count group members often. Ensure that no one is missing, and all have returned.	

Debrief suggestions (when possible)

1	Gather group together and see what they learnt, what was challenging, what do they want to practice.	
2	Reflect on session goals.	
3	Get feedback from group (Note down relevant information). Thank the participants and supervisors.	

Closing Down the Activity	
1	Get last group of the day to help pack up equipment.
2	Visually check equipment and record any incidents, damage, or wear and report it.
3	Check over trailer and car, walk the area for any lost property and rubbish.
4	Park trailer in appropriate location.
Stop activity when:	
1	Children get separated – (i.e. 25 away from instructor)
2	Halt activity at any time if conditions or people become unsafe
3	Beware of temperature and symptoms of cold/hyperthermia
4	Cancel the activity immediately if participant or weather conditions deteriorate. Make sure all participants are safe and supervised. Alert camp office and emergency services if necessary.

Emergency Procedures



Equipment Check	
1	Trailer Check: warranted and registered, properly connected to vehicle, lights working.
2	All equipment is counted and nothing is missing.
3	Kayaks are in good order - no holes, leaks, seats are intact.
5	Paddles are in good order - blades and shafts are intact.

Hazards and Risk Identification			
This section describes some reasonably foreseeable risk, its potential level and suggested management strategies. *All Risks must be continually monitored throughout the activity* New hazards/ risks must be reported or resolved appropriately as soon as possible.			
Environment Specific Risks	Risk Management Strategy	Risk Level	
		Managed	Unmanaged
Wind and currents	Check weather forecast, disclose Risk to group and consistently monitor group to ensure they stay together (25m rule).	Low	High
Hazardous surface, participants running,	No running. Disclose risks and hazards as appropriate. Monitor continually.	Low	High
Other boat traffic	Participants instructed not to run around the lakefront, boat ramp or roadside area and not to paddle around other boats in the water. The instructor is to keep group together away from risks	Low	High
Long hours in the sun (Supervisors & Participants)	Apply sunscreen before the activity. Bring water bottles. Program breaks/ Supervisor & Instructor rotations. Participants are to wait in shaded areas.	Low	Medium
Trees near waters edge and underwater	Instructor to make themselves familiar with area before group arrives and disclose any tree risks before and during activity	Low	Medium
Distraction from other groups	Supervisors to use good group management. Disclose risk to supervisors. Remind supervisors. Use positive communication.	Low	Medium
Change in weather	Ensure everyone has appropriate clothing. Supervisor is to halt the activity at any time if weather compromises safety (e.g. Electrical storm, high wind). Weather Risk assessed continuously.	Low	Medium
Water/ wind-chill	Instructor to monitor participants behaviour. Call off the activity when signs of hypothermia are recognised.	Low	Medium
Equipment Specific Risks	Risk Management Strategy	Risk Level	
		Managed	Unmanaged
Towing trailer and turning on and off a State Highway	Driver to ensure they only take big gaps in traffic and pull over to the side of the road until it is safe to turn	Low	High
Equipment taken out on water	Instructor is in charge of distributing equipment and keeps an eye on it while on the water. Participants are instructed to take responsibility for their own equipment while on the water	Low	Medium
Heavy kayaks	Instructor to ensure kayaks are loaded and unloaded appropriately, tell participants to move away once they have taken their kayaks to trailer	Low	Medium

Activity Specific Risks	Risk Management Strategy	Risk Level	
		Managed	Unmanaged
Participant unable to keep head above water	PFD (Personal Floatation Device) to be always worn by all in the water. Instructor to check that PFD's are fitted correctly before leaving shore. Instructor to ensure group stays close so they can assist anyone quickly.	Low	Extreme
Participant behaviour compromises group safety	Give safety brief. Staff or Supervisor can remove participant from the activity area or deny participation if the safety of others is compromised.	Low	High
Participants using paddles in close proximity	Instructor to use appropriate group management, warning them about this when gathering the group together.	Low	Medium
Shallow water and rocks	Instructor to be aware of risk areas and play appropriate games for the conditions and water depth (use sandy shallows or deeper water), instruct the participants that they are only to jump in when the instructor permits	Low	Medium
Dangerous Waters	Stay within 100 meters of the shoreline. If conditions change, move closer to the shore or sheltered areas. When in doubt get out.	Low	High
Hold Points	Risk Management Strategy	Risk Level	
		Managed	Unmanaged
Participant falls in water and is unable to help themselves	Participants to stay close to instructor so they can be helped back into their boat.	Low	High
Weather changes causing boats to be separated or blown into lake	All participants to shore if wind is above a manageable level (>15km/h)	Low	High
Participant is injured/cold	Safety equipment to be worn by all, the first aid kit must be in the camp vehicle. Whole group must be brought to shore if first aid is required.	Low	High
Participant does not wish to continue	If unable to encourage participant to continue assist participant to shore (using supervisor if necessary)	Low	Medium

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is approved for use at sites operated by MiCamp Trust. As at the time of approval, this SOP meets all known regulations (Adventure Activity Regulations, Safety Audit Standards etc) and current industry good practice

"I confirm that employees, subcontractors, visitors will be shown and advised of all Risks and controls in the operational procedure and they fully understand and acknowledge their requirements and are competent to fulfil their role "