



## **Kayaking Merit Badge**

Adventures On the Gorge offers the Kayak Merit Badge on the full-day Group Kayak Clinic section, which is appropriate for scouts ages 10+.

**Pre requisites are:** Minimum age 10, Scouts have earned First Aid merit badge and have passed the Swimming Proficiency Test.

**For Requirement 1, 3, 4, and 5:** We will do a question and answer session with the Scouts, as a group, on dry land or at the put in. We will sign off on these requirements, but we are trusting that you will make sure the Scouts have read and understand the book and can answer these questions. For requirement No. 1b & 1c, we will not be signing off on this one. We will let you as a Scout Leader take care of making sure the Scouts have done the 1st Aid and CPR requirements.

**For Requirements 6, 7, and 8:** We will do on the river.

**For Requirement 2** and the Swimming Proficiency Test we trust the Scouts will have passed prior to coming to Adventures On the Gorge.

We look forward to working with you to achieve all Scouts this Merit Badge and to a great day on the river with you. If you have any further questions please give us a call.

### **Requirements for the Kayaking merit badge:**

1. Do the following:
  - a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while participating in kayaking activities, including weather and water-related hazards, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.
  - b. Review prevention, symptoms, and first-aid treatment for the following injuries or illnesses that can occur while kayaking: blisters, cold-water shock and hypothermia, heat-related illnesses, dehydration, sunburn, sprains, and strains.
  - c. Review the BSA [Safety Afloat](#) policy. Explain to your counselor how this applies to kayaking.
2. Before doing requirements 3 through 9, successfully complete the [BSA swimmer test](#): Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.
3. Do the following:
  - a. Review the characteristics of life jackets most appropriate for kayaking and understand why one must always be worn while paddling. Then demonstrate how to select and fit a life jacket for kayaking.
  - b. Review the importance of safety equipment such as a signal device, extra paddle, sponge, bilge pump, and throw bag.
4. Do the following:
  - a. Name and point out the major parts of a kayak.

- b. Review the differences in the design between recreational, whitewater, and sea or touring kayaks. Include how length, width, stability, and rocker are involved in the design of each type.
  - c. Review the advantages and disadvantages of the materials most commonly used to make kayaks. Explain the care, maintenance, and storage of a kayak.
  - d. Using the trucker's hitch and bowline, demonstrate how to secure a kayak to a rack on a vehicle or a trailer, or to a rack on land.
5. Discuss the following:
- a. How to choose a kayak paddle.
  - b. The different materials from which paddles are made, parts of a paddle, and the care and maintenance of a paddle.
6. Using a properly equipped kayak with an open cockpit, a sit-on-top, or an inflatable kayak, do the following:
- a. Safely capsize and perform a wet exit.
  - b. Reenter the kayak with assistance from a buddy boat.
  - c. Demonstrate a kayak-over-kayak rescue.
  - d. Demonstrate the HELP position.
  - e. Capsize the kayak, swim it and the paddle to shore, and empty water from the kayak with assistance, if needed.
7. As a solo paddler, use a properly equipped kayak to demonstrate the following:
- a. Forward stroke
  - b. Backstroke
  - c. Forward sweep
  - d. Reverse sweep
  - e. Draw stroke
  - f. Stern draw
8. As a solo paddler, use a properly equipped kayak to demonstrate the following:
- a. Paddle a straight line for 25 yards, make a sharp turn, and return 25 yards in a straight line.
  - b. Spin or pivot 360 degrees to the right and 360 degrees to the left.
  - c. Move abeam to the right 10 feet and to the left 10 feet.
  - d. Stop the boat in one boat length.
  - e. Paddle a buoyed course of a length determined by your counselor that includes two right turns and two left turns performed while under way.

**In accordance with the *official* source for the information is: [Boy Scout Requirements](#), 2012 Edition (BSA Supply No. 34765)**

*Updated June 20, 2014*