



MOHAWK CANOE CLUB ACTIVITY RULES

The Mohawk Canoe Club is pleased to have you (and your Family) join us as a Member. In order to promote boating safety, enhance the paddling experience, and to expedite logistics, the Club requires that you follow our procedures, which include, but are not limited to the following listed below.

1. We welcome all club members and their guests; however, after two trips with the MCC we require guests to join if they wish to continue paddling with the club.
2. All of our trips can accommodate kayaks as well as canoes; however, some trips will be better suited for recreational, or touring kayaks and other trips for whitewater kayaks.
3. Trip leaders choose rivers or sections of rivers, decide on adequacy of water levels, may move trips to a more suitable river, decide who goes on trips, select rest stops and lunch locations, insist on participant cooperation, make decisions regarding the safety and integrity of trips, set time to meet, run shuttles, begin trips, etc.
4. The MCC expects that certain trip procedures be adhered to at all times, such as:
 - A. Wear your PFD at all times on the water. This is an MCC requirement and reduces your risk if you need assistance and also reduces the risk of others who may need to help you. *Inflatable PFDs are not allowed as a substitute.*
 - B. Call trip leaders several days in advance of the activity. This is essential for the leader to complete plans and arrangements and ensures that you receive trip details so you can participate. Many leaders will cancel trips if no one calls in advance -- other leaders may not be possible to reach at the last moment.
 - C. Trips are group adventures. Your help and assistance with shuttles, rescues, and other trip details is vital. Please show respect and courtesy for others.
 - D. Please inquire in detail about the trip. Make certain the trip is within your skill level and that your equipment is adequate.
 - E. Conversely, please answer patiently questions from trip leaders. Besides getting to know you better, the leaders wish to insure the trip is appropriate for you.
 - F. Most trip leaders meet at a certain time at the put-in, the takeout or another designated location. **Be early** to help with boat shuttles. Trip leaders set the time to best facilitate the trip. Most leaders are willing to wait a short period of time for late arrivals, but the group cannot be delayed for an overly delinquent arrival.
 - G. Consider buying (or improvising) racks that can carry two boats. Shuttles are much easier when boats can be doubled up on cars.
 - H. Stay together within the group and in sight of the boats in front of you, and behind you. **Do not pass the lead boat and stay ahead of the sweep boat.** We keep the group together for many reasons; safety, sociability, communications, etc. Repeated violations of important safety rules may result in members or guests being unwelcome on future trips of the club. Certainly, we welcome everyone with proper equipment and skill levels. Conversely, we are reluctant to deny any participation on club trips.
 - I. Be self-sufficient; have all the equipment and gear and personal items with you that you will need. Again, ask about the nature of the trip so you'll be prepared.

The Mohawk Canoe Club motto since 1903 has been "Good Fellowship". We strive to practice this motto and all that it implies. Let us all enjoy one another's company, the beauty and wonder of the outdoors and let us leave our rivers and streams cleaner than we find them.

Linda Yeager, Activities Coordinator, Sept 3, 2019

COVID-19 addendum to Mohawk trip rules

NJ and PA have both lifted restrictions on outdoor activities such that there isn't a state-levied size limit on paddles that applies in practical terms. However, trip leaders may want to aim for 10 or less.

1. To start with, paddles are no-shuttle only so as to eliminate the need or temptation to ride-share for shuttling. That's the consensus of the board. (We may expand to trips with other forms of shuttling as we get more experience with this, but we're not there yet.)
2. The Trip leader has discretion as to who goes. The trip leader may choose to allow guests or disallow them entirely. Any guest must fill out the guest waiver in advance so as to avoid passing around pens, clipboards, etc. It's important that the trip leader can trust that everyone coming will observe social distancing rules and has sufficient equipment and experience such that need for a rescue is highly unlikely. (Paddlers should be paddling below ability. This is not the time to be testing skills.)
3. Participants must wear masks on land (at the put-in /take-out.) Recommend keeping your mask stowed in a dry, easy-to-reach spot while on the water.
4. No sharing of equipment (except by members of the same household).
5. While on the water, avoid rafting up together, such that paddlers get closer than 6'.
6. For breaks (lunch or leg break), paddlers need to be mindful of keeping 6' distance from other paddlers.
7. No sharing of food.
8. Trip leader should handle signup by email or phone call, including emergency contact number. Trip leader can update the signup list at the put-in as necessary, but should skip the passed-around signup sheet.
9. Trip leader should bring hand sanitizer and wipes to make available at the put-in/take-out and bring it on the water. There will be some cases where a paddler needs to help carry someone's boat or help load it onto a car, for instance, and should clean their hands after.
10. Trip leaders should point out to participants prior to the trip that if they are at high risk they should consider whether they ought to stay home.

As part of confirming attendance at a trip, each participant will be required to confirm that they:

- Have not had COVID-19 or symptoms in the last 2 weeks, to their knowledge.
- Have not been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks.
- Are not currently subject to the 2-week self-quarantine required after a visit to a "high-risk" state as deemed by the state of NJ (current list is posted on nj.gov).
- By signing up for the trip and confirming, they take responsibility for maintaining social distance from other paddlers and taking other steps to reduce and/or avoid the possibility of getting infected.
- Acknowledge that they understand there is still some risk of contracting the disease, in spite of best efforts to avoid it, particularly as some infected people are known to have no symptoms.

Linda Yeager, Activities coordinator, August 5th, 2020.