

PHILADELPHIA CANOE CLUB TRIP PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the policy of the Philadelphia Canoe Club to consider all club trips posted on our website (Philacanoe.org) as "Common Adventures." That is, all participants share the risks and each participant is responsible for their own safety, generally, and specifically as follows:

1. All participants are equal partners, sharing the risks involved in a trip.
2. The Trip Coordinator facilitates the trip and arranges for meeting places and times.
3. The Trip Coordinator is not a guide, nor do they lead the trip or decide who should or should not attend.
4. All participants should be familiar with and follow the American Canoe Association's "Top 10 Safety Tips" https://youtu.be/RDtF8j_wdOI and/or the American Whitewater Safety Code, as applicable <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/safety:start?>.
5. All participants must decide:
 1. Whether or not to join the trip based on an honest evaluation of their personal skill.
 2. Whether or not to launch on the day of the trip based on water and weather conditions at the scene.
 3. What equipment to take on the trip.
 4. Whether or not to run, scout or portage a rapid.
 5. Whether or not to participate in a rescue.
 6. Whether or not to pass up any walk-out or take-out opportunity.

All participants acknowledge and accept that:

1. Boating is hazardous.
2. Changing conditions, temperature, high water and other hazards, sometimes in remote locations, can make rescue difficult.
3. They are responsible for learning and practicing the techniques necessary to recognize and avoid paddling and other trip hazards.
4. They are responsible for acquiring boating safety and rescue skills commensurate with the level of difficulty of the river or other body of water on which they are paddling.
5. They are responsible for complying with all federal, state and local laws/regulations regarding life jackets (personal flotation devices – PFDs). Federal law requires all children under the age of 13 to wear life jackets. PA and NJ law require that a functional, wearable, appropriately sized PFD be readily accessible for each person in a boat. PA law requires anyone in a canoe or kayak to wear a PFD from November 1 through April 30th. PCC policy requires PFDs to be worn on all whitewater trips and by each trip participant who borrows a PCC boat.
6. Helmets are required for all whitewater trips.
7. Boats, gear and clothing must be appropriate for the expected conditions.
8. They are responsible for learning about proper equipment under generally accepted safe boating standards.