

Canoeing



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0845 300 1818

Introduction

This factsheet looks to give the facts a person would need to know to run Canoeing for a group of young people, or to do it for themselves if they are a young person. It should be read in conjunction with the factsheet FS120084 Scout Led Activities Index, and Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

What is Canoeing?

Canoeing is a way of travelling over water through the use of a canoe, a small craft which is propelled through the use of a paddle. The Canoeing Permit refers to open canoeing, a craft that does not have a deck enclosing the occupant(s) and which was designed to be paddled using a single bladed paddle, usually from a kneeling position. Kayaking and closed cockpit Canoeing are covered by the Kayaking Permit Scheme. Open canoes can also be propelled using a pole, sail or motor. Use of a sail, with the exception of an improvised sail, is covered by the Dinghy Sailing Permit Scheme, and use of a motor by the Power Boating Permit Scheme.

What is a Canoeing Permit?

The adventurous activity permit scheme is designed to ensure that only people with the relevant skills and experience lead adventurous activities for the young people. Therefore all activities classed as adventurous can only be lead by someone holding the appropriate permit. Additionally young people (under 18) can take part in adventurous activities for themselves with personal activity permits.

A Canoeing permit is required for all Canoeing taking place except in class C water. Definitions of water classifications can be found in POR.

Levels of Permit

Canoeing permits can be issued for any class of water. Each class of permit can be further restricted (such as through tidal, non-tidal, group size, geographical location etc) to end up with an individual permit to the level of the competence and requirements of an Applicant.

Types of Permit

There are three types of permit available for Canoeing. These are:

- **Personal** – Allows a young person (under 18) to take part in Canoeing with others with a personal Canoeing permit.
- **Leadership** – Allows the permit holder to lead Canoeing for a single group.
- **Supervisory** – Allows the permit holder to remotely supervise more than one Canoeing group.

Permit Limitations

- **Personal** – If you hold a personal Canoeing permit you can go Canoeing with others who hold a personal Canoeing permit. It does not allow you to go Canoeing with anyone not holding a Canoeing permit.
- **Leadership** – If you have permit to lead Canoeing then you can look after a maximum of eight canoes or 12 people (whichever is less) at a time, subject to any restrictions on your permit, and

need to remain on the water with these canoes at all times.

- **Supervisory** – If you hold a permit to supervise Canoeing then you can supervise up to three groups. All supervised groups should have means to communicate with the permit holder who will need to be in or have immediate access to a rescue craft (this may be another canoe) and be in a position to provide prompt assistance if required. You remain responsible for all the groups you are supervising, but can designate someone with the appropriate skills to be the leader of each group.

Designations

When supervising groups from a distance the holder of a Canoeing supervisor permit needs to designate a leader for each group. This designation lasts only for the current activity while the permit holder is supervising.

People designated as group leaders should have the necessary skills and be responsible enough to lead a group safely in the craft and on the class of water being paddled. There is no problem with making young people group leaders if they are up to the role, and it can be used as a useful development tool.

Useful Links

[FS120084](#) Scout Led Activities Index
(References relevant Rules and guidance)

[FS120086](#) Commercially Led Activities Index

[FS120100](#) Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme