

Paddle Lead Volunteer

Summary: Outdoors for All's paddle programs offer participants a safe, fun atmosphere to learn and practice safe paddling techniques. Each paddling event is different. The focus of some is just to have a safe and fun paddle experience and others may also work to develop paddle skills to effectively paddle a boat independently. In general, our programs operate in more controlled bodies of water such as lakes or areas near the shore or a cove. The water areas should have low boat traffic, be without major currents or tides, and have light winds (no whitecaps). **Lead volunteers will captain a safety boat (single kayak) during programs. They must have completed the Outdoors for All Paddle Lead Training or have some sort of equivalent kayak rescue training as approved by Outdoors for All.**

Responsible to: Outdoors for All staff

Responsibilities:

1. Captain a safety boat (single kayak) as needed
2. Assist with leading group on the water as instructed by staff lead
3. Able to facilitate rescues and emergency responses as needed
4. Provide a safe, fun, positive, helpful learning experience for Outdoors for All participants
5. Assist Outdoors for All staff with setup and cleanup of event, which includes lifting boats, paddles, and other equipment
6. Responsible for helping to maintain the integrity of the equipment
7. Provide basic kayak instruction to participants on land and water if needed or desired
8. Engage participants throughout the activity
9. Listen and follow staff instructions

Other Expectations:

1. No phone usage, unless for emergencies
2. Be Punctual
3. Utilize safe and appropriate equipment
4. Adhere to Outdoors for All's policies and procedures
5. Read all emails and other communications from Outdoors for All staff, and respond if necessary

Requirements:

1. Must be 18 or older. For military kayaking events you must be 21+
2. Attend and complete all required trainings (specified online)
3. Strong paddling skills
4. Must be comfortable paddling in light to moderate winds
5. Ability to complete a kayak rescue if someone capsizes
6. Ability and desire to work with a wide variety of personalities, skill levels, and abilities
7. Ability to commit to all responsibilities and expectations
8. Pass a Washington State Background check
9. Equipment: no equipment required. We provide the kayaks, paddles, PFDs, and all other kayaking gear. You can bring your own PFD if you would like.