



OLTOA
Outdoor Leader Trainers of America



Dear Paddler,

Thank you for your interest in enrolling in the American Canoe Association Level 2 Kayak Touring Instructor Skills Assessment on May 25th, 2025. (Note: This program will be taught with skirted kayaks)

This course is being offered as one avenue to meet the pre-requisite of having Level 2 paddling skills before taking the ACA Level 2 Instructor Certification Workshop, or Instructor Development Workshop. Note- it is not required that one take this Assessment course. What is required is that you **are an ACA Member** and have the ability and to demonstrate the skills listed in the link below:

https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/L2_Essentials-of-Kayak-Touring-Instructor-Criteria.pdf

Before signing up for the Level 2 Skills Assessment, it is important to understand the difference between a Skills Course and a Skills Assessment. A Skills Assessment is more of a test than a lesson. In the skills assessment, your instructor will be asking you to perform different tasks. For example: you may be asked to almost capsize, and show a low brace to recover. In the Skills Assessment it is expected that you already know how to do a low brace.

This is different than the “Kayak Level 2 Skills Course” (offered on May 24th.) In a Skills Course your instructor will say: “Here is a low brace,” and they will teach you how to do it, let you demonstrate it, and give you feedback to make it better if needed. A Skills Course is not a pass/fail course.

Who should take a Level 2 Kayak Skills Assessment? If you are someone who has had formal kayaking instruction by an ACA Kayak Instructor, and feel good about the skills listed in the ACA Level 2 Kayak Touring Instructor Criteria, then you may opt to take the Skills Assessment, and do some fine tuning on your skills while ensuring your skills are up to speed.

Who should take the Kayak Skills Course before attempting to take the Skills Assessment course? If you are an aspiring kayak instructor and a self-taught kayaker who has been paddling for years, but never had formal paddling instruction, you should definitely take the Level 2 Skills Course before attempting to take the L-2 Skills Assessment course. If you have had professional kayaking instruction, and you want a review of the level 1 and Level 2 skills, to set yourself up for success before heading to the Skills Assessment, then you might consider taking the Skills Course on May 25th.

Pre-registration is required for the above course. Once you are enrolled, we will plan to meet you at 157 Mount Hunger Shore Road, Windham Maine at 0800 sharp on the first day of the workshop.

We have a lot to cover and your timeliness is appreciated!

Some good things to know in advance:

This workshop will demand your full mental and physical attention all day. You may be asked to paddle in 10 knots of wind and/ or river currents. Please come prepared to get wet. To participate in this workshop, you will need to be able to spend several hours in a kayak, have the physical ability to perform self and assisted rescues, and carry your kayak 100 yards over uneven terrain. You should plan to come to this workshop well rested and leave tired. This course will be physically and mentally demanding and could run into the evening hours.

OLTOA will be providing instruction, course paperwork and basic safety equipment. Please bring your own snacks, lunch, and water for the day. To enhance the quality of the program and the safety of our entire class, we ask that you bring all of the equipment on the enclosed bring list. If you are missing something on the bring list, please call us and we will try to help you get what you need. ***This is extremely important!*** *Note: If you are flying to this workshop, and you need to rent a kayak or equipment, please let us know in advance.*

Homework: Look over the website above and ensure that you are comfortable with the skills needed to take this course. Also, look over the ACA “to bring list” and ensure you have everything on the list.

To register for this course:

- 1) Please contact OLTOA and make sure that there is space available in this class.
- 2) Go to www.oltoa.com and click on “How to Register” and follow the instructions on the website.
- 3) Fill out the course registration form and the medical form. Return them to OLTOA with your payment of \$160.00. Please send the above to OLTOA- LLC 157 Mount Hunger Shore Road Windham Maine 04062

Cancellation Policy: If you need to cancel:

- Within 45 days of the start date of your class you will be given a full refund
- Within 35 days of the start date of your class you will be given a 50% refund
- If you cancel after the above times no refunds will be given
 - We reserve the right to cancel any offering due to low enrollment.
 - If we cancel due to low enrollment you will be given a full refund.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Yours in adventure,
Bob Myron
Outdoor Leader Trainers of America, LLC
ACA ITE Coastal Kayaking, IT Canoeing and SUP
bobmyron@live.com

Please see the bring list below:

"Bring List" for ACA Coastal Kayak Instructor Candidates

Required:

- Sea Kayak (with bulkheads or floatation)
- Spray Skirt
- Paddle
- Spare Paddle
- Personal Flotation Device (with whistle attached)
- Helmet and warm skull cap*
- River Knife or EMT Shears (or pocketknife for level 1 & 2)
- Dry Bag (Large enough for warm clothes)
- Repair kit*
- Paddle float
- Pump
- Tow Belt
- Compact waterproof flashlight*
- Chart of the area / with some means of protecting It from the water *
Note: Casco Bay chart # 13290 will be adequate for Freeport Based Programs*
- Tide Chart
- Handheld compass
- Deck Mounted compass*
- Waterproof watch
- Weather Radio*
- Dry suit or Wet suit and paddling jacket. A **DRY SUIT IS HIGHLY** Recommended for this course - OLTOA rents dry suits for an additional fee- call for availability and reservations)
- Pogies or Neoprene Gloves
- Appropriate clothing & Footwear for paddling in 38 degree water with air temperatures of 40-50 degrees (Temperatures are in Farenheight)
- Toilet Paper & 2-Quart Tupperware Container for human waste *
- Basic First Aid Kit
- Water bottles or hydration system (filled with water)



- Snacks & lunch for on water days
- Notepad and Pen & Personal resources for your presentations; Books, visual aids etc.
- Anything else you feel you need to guide a successful day trip
- Proof of ACA Membership (ACA Number)
- ACA Instructor Manual (This is a required item and must be purchased directly from the ACA)

OPTIONAL:

- Flares, Strobe and VHF Radio
- Helmet
- Cash for food
- Casual clothing for classroom sessions
- Towel
- Dry Gear Bags for keeping spare clothing dry

<p>Outdoor Leader Trainers of America, LLC. 1-29-2024</p>

*Items not required for Level 2 courses

Note: "May be provided by your school" only applies if we are coming to your location to run this course.