

## Suggestions for a Successful Troop Boating Excursion

Note: these suggestions are in addition to the BSA guidelines found in the Safety Afloat section of Guide to Safe Scouting.

1. All troop-built kayaks should have floatation in each end. Kayaks without adequate floatation should not be allowed on the water.
2. All boats should have at least one 10' painter (actually tied to the bow using a proper bowline knot) for towing, tying up, etc. and a bailer.
3. All boaters should wear shoes in their boats, in case they need to make an emergency landing and walk on a rocky shore.
4. Boating adults should each carry a knife, for cutting loose towed kayaks, etc.
5. There should be at least one first aid kit on the water. (Ten essentials?)
6. There should only be one person in troop-built kayaks.
7. At least one, and preferably two or more, canoes should accompany troop kayaks, for rescue purposes. If two canoes are available one can stay with the lead kayaks, and one can bring up the rear.
8. Before the journey begins all boating scouts should establish a buddy boat.
9. Adults in canoes or kayaks should have radio contact with an on-shore designated adult. Before the journey begins the on-shore adult should be notified of the trip plan, and kept informed of progress during the journey. If necessary, the on-shore adult should be prepared to provide rescue services.
10. Early on in the journey two designated boating adults (other than those in the canoes), who are not planning to complete the trip, should decide which scouts are tiring, and unlikely to complete the full trip without assistance. These scouts should be escorted back to the starting point by the designated adults. Buddy boats should be reassigned at this time for those scouts continuing on who lose their buddies due to the turn-around of the tiring scouts.
11. The troop-built kayaks are designed for flat water. The trip leader should decide if weather conditions (wind) pose a threat to their safe operation.