

**AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Canoe Committee
Sea Kayak Rating Form**

Level 1--Novice Paddler

In protected water conditions, demonstrates competence in: all basic strokes including forward, reverse, sweep, draw, high & low braces; wet exit; assisted rescue as both rescuer and victim (T-rescue) and self-rescue (paddle float); safe group paddling (e.g. on-water signals, rafting etc.). Also, demonstrates knowledge of safety issues related to paddling including weather, tides & currents, marine hazards, hypothermia, etc. Can paddle continuously at a moderate pace for one hour and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for up to two hours without a shore break.

Level 2--Intermediate Paddler

In protected water conditions, in addition to Level 1 skills, demonstrates competence in: basic strokes with edging; advanced strokes with edging including bow rudder, low brace turn, draw-on-the-move and hanging draw; high and low sculling for support and sculling draw; stern rudder; Eskimo rescue (bow presentation). Demonstrates good progress toward an Eskimo roll. Also demonstrates knowledge of basic on-water navigation including map/chart reading and compass use. Can paddle continuously at a moderately brisk pace for 1½ hours and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for up to three hours without a shore break.

Level 3--Open Water Paddler

In open water conditions, demonstrates competence in: all Level 1 and 2 skills; Eskimo rescue (paddle shaft presentation); Eskimo roll from a non-set up position; towing; navigation including nautical chart interpretation, plotting and following bearings, calculating distances and speeds, and using ranges. Also demonstrates knowledge of open water hazards. Can paddle continuously at a brisk pace for 1½ hours and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for three or more hours without a shore break.

To the Observer:

By completing this form you are certifying that you have personally observed the candidate complete all of the requirements of the class. Merely “surviving” a paddle does not mean that the paddler has achieved the rating. Observations on multiple dates and waterways may be combined. A Level 2 or 3 recommendation requires that the paddler be observed in conditions near the upper end of Level 2 or 3 respectively.

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Paddler's Name	Current Rating

Observer's Name	Current Rating

Waterway(s) Paddled	Date(s)

Conditions

Additional Comments

Please return this form to the Canoe Committee Chair at canoekayakchair@amc-ny.org .