



P.O. Box 94
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Greetings and thank you for inquiring about the American Canoe Association (ACA) Coastal Kayaking Certification process at Sea Kayak Specialists (SKS) where we've been doing these workshops since 1999. These workshops are offered by qualified ACA Instructor Trainers across the country and are designed to provide for your advancement in sea kayaking. At SKS, we offer you a great value in ACA workshops with an experienced staff, optimum facilities and professional feedback. Please see the ACA website www.AmericanCanoe.org for more information.

Becoming a Coastal Kayak Guide combines two ACA tracks: Instructor and Trip Leader. By combining these tracks together, it prepares participants for working as a Coastal Kayak Guide on the Great Lakes and beyond. The Instructor track is the ACA Level 2 Kayak Instructor process and Trip Leader is the ACA Level 3 Trip Leader process.

One part of becoming a Coastal Kayak Guide is the ACA Instructor Certification process which has two components: the Instructor Development Workshop (IDW - a two day event; the training) followed at a later date by the Instructor Certification Evaluation (ICE - a one day event; the testing). A period of time between the two events facilitates the growth of the candidate as an instructor by further developing and refining their teaching and paddling skills. Participation in each workshop is necessary to complete the ACA Kayak Instructor Certification.

The other part of becoming a Coastal Kayak Guide is the ACA Trip Leader Assessment process which has two components: a two day training and a two day assessment/testing. A period of time between the two enables growth and development of the candidate as a Trip Leader. Participation in both the training and assessment is necessary to complete the Trip Leader Assessment process.

The four day training encompassing both Instructor and Trip Leader is designed to introduce and give you thorough exposure and practice with the information and skills necessary to pass an ACA Instructor Certification Examination and Trip Leader Assessment. The workshop focuses on obtaining technical coastal sea kayaking knowledge including trip planning, effective teaching & modeling of kayak skills, managing groups, on water navigation and safely leading a group of paddlers. In other words, this portion is designed to "teach you how to be a Coastal Kayak Guide".

The three day assessment/testing is designed to evaluate the candidate regarding their Instructor and Trip Leader skills. As an ACA Instructor you can be certified at Level 1 or 2. Primary assessment areas include teaching ability on & off water as well as skill modeling. As an ACA Trip Leader you can be assessed at either Level 2 or 3. Primary assessment areas include coastal kayaking skills (includes knowledge, personal skills and experience), leadership and scenario performance. Other areas assessed include professionalism, attitude, personal equipment and physical fitness. In addition, staff presentations provide for continued training and professional growth.

Workshop participants are pre-assigned individual teaching topics for both the training and assessment/testing. You will receive in the mail before the workshop starts your teaching topics.

During the workshops you receive immediate feedback from the staff on your performance. At the end of both workshops, you'll receive verbal and written feedback.

DATES: Training – May 18-21, 2017. Testing – Sept. 8-10, 2017.

WORKSHOP TUITION:

Training: \$399. Price includes ACA Instructor CD and Topic Outline book. In addition, you need to be an ACA member prior to the workshop. The annual membership fee is \$40. Prior to the testing, you also need to join the ACA's SEIC (Safety, Education, Instruction Committee) for \$25.

Testing: \$310.

DISCOUNTS: Receive a \$40 early discount by registering for the training before March 15th and/or the testing before June 15th.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS: Please review the [Guide Training Skill Checklist](#) document for the Essential Eligibility requirements along with a checklist of paddling skills participants are expected to possess before the workshop.

LOCATION: Bay Cliff Health Camp, located in Big Bay, MI is the site for this workshop. Big Bay is a community of a few hundred people located on the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Independence and is 40 minutes west of Marquette, MI on County Road 550. It is a small community with limited lodging and dining.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Review the [Lodging Options](#) document for a list of Big Bay lodging. Bay Cliff Health Camp, offers room and board to workshop participants that the staff and previous participants highly recommend.

TO REGISTER: Fill out the [Registration Form](#) and mail it with payment to: Sea Kayak Specialists, P.O. Box 94, Marquette, MI, 49855. **Registration closes 3 weeks prior to class date.** Checks or money orders are accepted as payment. Refunds, minus a cancellation fee, can be obtained up to 2 weeks prior to class date. Space is limited and since the class has filled up early in the past, it is recommended to register as soon as possible. Registrations received within the last 3 weeks maybe assessed a \$50 late fee.

Sincerely,
Sam Crowley
ACA Instructor Trainer