

Kayak Director

Overview

Kayaking is a fantastic water sport that can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. With our lightweight boats and paddles even the smallest kids can learn to control a kayak and paddle across the lake with ease. The activity is a great way to introduce younger kids to water sports and an even better way to get older kids more comfortable with different kinds of sports. Kayaking allows the older kids to challenge themselves to perfect their tricks in hopes of one day doing white water kayaking. Who knows, maybe the next Adam van Koeverden will come from South Tea Shores!

Daily Tasks

At the start and end of each day ensure that all equipment is racked properly and paddles and skirts are put away safely. This means all boats should be upside down, and inspected for cracks. Skirts should be checked for frayed edges and paddles should have no cracks. Daily sweeps of the grounds in and around the kayak docks should be done to check for lost and found items and any loose boards on the dock

Programming

The wonderful part of the Tamakwa Kayak program is the variety available on a day-to-day basis. Periods may vary between leisure paddles on the lake, practicing rolls inside kayyak bay or even a day or overnight cookout. Throughout the summer, we encourage you to mix things up and create different activities.

As Kayak Director, you are required to think of fun games or adventures that you could do with kids such as playing piano keys (always a favourite with kids), kayak races across the lake or even a friendly competition of Eskimo rolls.

Special Programs

All-day or overnight cookouts and a short trip (2-3 Days) are great ways to break away from the everyday routine of camp; talk to your Andrea to help schedule your trips and be sure to place any food requirements with the kitchen as early as possible (at least 48 hours in advance).

Once per session we hold a JT triathlon that encompasses swimming, kayaking and running. This is a great challenge for our 7-9 year old campers and something they work hard at to achieve. Although staff members will lifeguard each camper while they are on the water, it is recommended that you or a staff member spend some time

working with any participants before the event to make sure basic kayaking skills exist. For further details on this event please speak to Andrea, and co-ordinate with the Swim Director and Stephanie.

Awards

Kids will want to spend a fair bit of time working on awards and will require a lot of one on one teaching. It is recommended that you focus one particular individual choice period to award work each day. As kayaking is likely not an activity most campers participate in during the winter months, it is a good idea to review low-level skills with all campers - even if they have already received an award during a previous summer.

After covering the basics, you can move on to more advance lessons. More information about kayak awards will be given at camp.

Staff

Kayaking requires a fair amount of one on one teaching, especially when rolls or wet-exits are being taught. Use your staff effectively – have them in the water either standing beside campers in the bay or paddling beside them and teaching them skills.

Two staff members should be on the dock lifeguarding at all times (one in the tower and one on the dock), performing constant head checks and scanning the water at all times.

It is quite easy for campers to get blown outside of kayak bay and therefore need to be watched at ALL TIMES. Campers leaving kayak bay must be accompanied by at least one staff member at all times. Remember to keep your staff members motivated and enthusiastic about your activity. Encourage them to help plan day to day activities or think of fun and creative games to play.

Safety

While we always encourage campers and staff to have fun at everything they do, safety is paramount. At the start of every Kayak period, please ensure that all staff and all campers are aware of the Kayaking Rules. They are listed below

- All campers and staff are wearing a properly sized, fastened lifejacket.
- Water sandals or water shoes are encouraged for campers and staff practicing wet-exits in kayak bay as there are a lot of logs beneath the water.

- **Campers are not allowed to leave kayak bay** without permission and supervision and must always be accounted for at all times.
- Kayak bay is located near transportation dock please be on the look out for moving boats at all time and stay as far away as possible from the main docks.

Tips from Previous Instructors

Below you will find a few games and activities that have worked at the Tamakwa Kayak dock!

Games:

Games are a great way to mix fun with learning. We have listed below a few games that have worked in the past, and encourage you to ask around/ look online for more ideas!

- Piano Keys - line kayaks in a row on the water - have camper on the end try to run across without falling
- Kayak Hockey - set 2 goals in the water, use a floating ball... kayak basketball is also great
- Tag
- Races
- Sharky Fishy

Planned Events:

- Cookouts (in camp and out of camp)
- Overnights / Trips
- Day outing to the Portage Store
- Kayak / Canoe races
- Synchronized Kayak Routines
- Fertratiros - kayak out to a location, load kayak with branches, tarp etc and kayak back to set-up colony
- Last years Kayak fishing trip was a hit!

Summary

This may seem like a lot of information, but we just want you to be as informed as possible! We do not expect you to memorize this document. We do expect you to read it, take notes, and ask questions. We are very excited to have you on board as an activity leader. Looking forward to spending time with you on the sunny shores of South Tea Lake!

KAYAKING RULES

- Campers may ONLY use kayaks with a staff member's permission
- Everyone must wear fastened lifejackets when in a kayak
- Campers in kayaks may ONLY leave the bay with a staff member's permission
- Campers may ONLY be on the dock while a staff member is present
- Kayaks may ONLY be tipped with a staff member's permission
- Be sure to stay clear of all boats/barges coming and going
- This is not a swim area
- Be sure to put all equipment away after using it
- No air pockets