

Touring Kayakers Ottawa-Outaouais (TK2O) Risk Management Policy

TK2O is a non-profit, member-directed organization dedicated to providing a forum for sea kayakers located in the National Capital Region to exchange information and plan outings within Canada. We are a group of like-minded people who have formed a local club.

It is TK2O's policy to identify all areas of risk, to set a level of risk for the individuals, members or employees in organizing kayak trips, clinics and workshops. TK2O actively encourages ongoing skill development in all of the paddling and associated activities that we offer.

Member Requirements

Every individual seeking club membership will sign the (1) Waiver of Liability Agreement and (2) Statement of Health Record (copies attached) and submit those documents to a club representative before participating in club activities. TK2O makes the above-noted documents available to the public at large and to its members on its website. Organizers and agents of TK2O are expected to ensure that all participants have signed these documents before participating in club activities.

Trip Leaders and Professional Resources

Trip organizers and any agents of TK2O will follow the policies of TK2O and all applicable laws in the preparation and execution of any trips, clinics or other events (hereinafter, "club activities").

Insurance

TK2O will pursue and, once secured, will maintain up-to-date Sports Liability Insurance Coverage. However, TK2O cannot assume financial liability for loss of personal property. TK2O requires its members self-fund their own participation in club activities, including loss or damage, and that all members agree to this financial responsibility.

Trip Plans

Participation in all TK2O club activities are entirely voluntary and at the risk of the individual.

For multi-day trips, trip organizers are required to file a trip plan or "float plan" with either the appropriate park organization, Coast Guard or with a responsible person. TK2O provides a Kayak Trip Guide (attached and on the website) that provides suggested trip planning activities and a sample float plan which may be subject to modification by the trip organizer.

First Aid

Individuals are responsible for supplying and ensuring that their own personal medications and first aid requirements are complete for all day and multi-day trips. First aid requirements for multi-day trips will be addressed by the individual trip organizers in advance of the actual trip. TK2O provides a Kayak Trip Guide (attached and on the website) that contains suggested contents of first aid kits which may be subject to modification by multi-day trip organizers.

TK2O actively encourages its members to seek nationally-certified training in the administration of first aid (St. John's Ambulance, Red Cross, etc.). The actual rendering of first aid assistance is completely voluntary and at the discretion of the individual, except in Quebec where those individuals who have up-to-date first aid certification are mandated by law to render assistance.

Travel Arrangements

Travel to and from a TK2O club activity is the responsibility of the individual and is not included as part of a TK2O membership fee. Participants are encouraged to travel together and share expenses.

Kayaks and Other Associated Equipment

Kayaks must be maintained in seaworthy condition and outfitted to current Coast Guard requirements (non-exclusive list: paddle, bailing device, 50 foot floating heaving line, a light at night, signaling device). Kayaks without bulkheads should be equipped with floatation bags and/or a sea sock.

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs)

PFDs will be worn and fastened correctly while in the kayak at all times.

Clothing & Footwear

Clothing appropriate to the weather and water conditions is the responsibility of all members and trip organizers may direct individuals as to specific requirements.

Sturdy footwear shall be worn while at a campsite, portaging or participating in rescue activities or any other circumstance required by the trip organizer. Lighter footwear may be worn in the kayak.

Water Treatment and Cleanliness

All water used for drinking on TK2O trips will either be supplied by a municipal drinking water provider or will be treated either by boiling, filtering or by iodine treatment or any combination thereof. Each participant will have their own water bottle to use. Participants will wash their hands with soap and water after elimination and before handling food.