



MOHAWK CANOE CLUB ACTIVITY RULES

The Mohawk Canoe Club is pleased to have you (and your Family) join us as a Member. In order to promote boating safety, enhance the paddling experience, and to expedite logistics, the Club requires that you follow our procedures, which include, but are not limited to the following listed below.

1. We welcome all club members and their guests; however, after two trips with the MCC we require guests to join if they wish to continue paddling with the club.
2. All of our trips can accommodate kayaks as well as canoes; however, some trips will be better suited for recreational, or touring kayaks and other trips for whitewater kayaks.
3. Trip leaders choose rivers or sections of rivers, decide on adequacy of water levels, may move trips to a more suitable river, decide who goes on trips, select rest stops and lunch locations, insist on participant cooperation, make decisions regarding the safety and integrity of trips, set time to meet, run shuttles, begin trips, etc.
4. The MCC expects that certain trip procedures be adhered to at all times, such as:
 - A. Wear your PFD at all times on the water. This is an MCC requirement and reduces your risk if you need assistance and also reduces the risk of others who may need to help you. *Inflatable PFDs are not allowed as a substitute.*
 - B. Call trip leaders several days in advance of the activity. This is essential for the leader to complete plans and arrangements and ensures that you receive trip details so you can participate. Many leaders will cancel trips if no one calls in advance -- other leaders may not be possible to reach at the last moment.
 - C. Trips are group adventures. Your help and assistance with shuttles, rescues, and other trip details is vital. Please show respect and courtesy for others.
 - D. Please inquire in detail about the trip. Make certain the trip is within your skill level and that your equipment is adequate.
 - E. Conversely, please answer patiently questions from trip leaders. Besides getting to know you better, the leaders wish to insure the trip is appropriate for you.
 - F. Most trip leaders meet at a certain time at the put-in, the takeout or another designated location. **Be early** to help with boat shuttles. Trip leaders set the time to best facilitate the trip. Most leaders are willing to wait a short period of time for late arrivals, but the group cannot be delayed for an overly delinquent arrival.
 - G. Consider buying (or improvising) racks that can carry two boats. Shuttles are much easier when boats can be doubled up on cars.
 - H. Stay together within the group and in sight of the boats in front of you, and behind you. **Do not pass the lead boat and stay ahead of the sweep boat.** We keep the group together for many reasons; safety, sociability, communications, etc. Repeated violations of important safety rules may result in members or guests being unwelcome on future trips of the club. Certainly, we welcome everyone with proper equipment and skill levels. Conversely, we are reluctant to deny any participation on club trips.
 - I. Be self-sufficient; have all the equipment and gear and personal items with you that you will need. Again, ask about the nature of the trip so you'll be prepared.

The Mohawk Canoe Club motto since 1903 has been "Good Fellowship". We strive to practice this motto and all that it implies. Let us all enjoy one another's company, the beauty and wonder of the outdoors and let us leave our rivers and streams cleaner than we find them.

COVID-19 addendum to Mohawk trip rules

Last updated 7/22/2021.

The club is running down-river trips, as outdoor activities have been proven to be relatively safe and Covid-19 vaccinations are widely available to anyone 12 and over. We follow CDC guidance and NJ state law with regard to small outdoor gatherings for the outdoor portions of our activities and the guidance/law applicable to small indoor gatherings for ride-sharing between the put-in and take-out. The trip leader for an activity will attempt to accommodate those participants who feel they or a family member are still at risk in spite of being vaccinated.

Our rules as they stand today:

1. Providing vaccination status is not a requirement for participation, although volunteering it ahead of time to the trip leader is helpful.
2. For trips that involve a shuttle, shuttle participation is not required. A paddler may choose to arrange pickup with a family member, run a family shuttle with their own cars, do a bike shuttle or some other option that they feel safer with. In any case, if opting out of the trip shuttle, they must inform the trip leader in advance.
3. Any participant who is not able to arrange their own shuttle and is concerned about risk to themselves or family members should contact the trip leader ahead of time to try to arrange for shuttling with only people who are fully vaccinated. The trip leader may or may not be able to accommodate this.

And as always, if you are feeling unwell, please stay home and contact the trip leader to let them know.

Linda Yeager, Activities coordinator, July 21st, 2021.