



P.O. Box 94
Marquette, MI 49855
906-250-4238
SeaKayakSpecialists.com

Greetings and thank you for inquiring about the ACA Coastal Kayaking Certification process at **Sea Kayak Specialists (SKS)**. These workshops represent a comprehensive blend of formats offered by qualified ACA Instructor Trainers across the country and are designed to provide for your advancement in sea kayaking.

The Advanced Open Water (AOW) Coastal Kayaking certification level was added in 2003 by the ACA. It builds on the Open Water certification level by testing the candidates ability to lead and teach a group of paddlers in conditions up to 25 knot winds, 5 foot seas and 5 knot currents. Candidates are expected to have competency in conditions exceeding these. There is no AOW IDW, only the AOW ICE is required. AOW certification can only be awarded to those who have been Open Water Instructors for at least 2 years. Candidates are evaluated by performing the following:

- Plan and lead all or part of a rough water outing.
- Demonstrate effective risk management.
- Determine proper equipment for self and group.
- Demonstrate effective group formations and communications in rough water.
- Perform advanced strokes in rough water.
- Orchestrate safe and effective towing exercises in rough water.
- Orchestrate safe and effective rescue exercises in rough water.
- Orchestrate a safe group launch and landing through moderate surf, if available.

The primary difference from the Open Water certification level is Open Water candidates are expected to have competency in conditions up to 25 knot winds, 5 foot seas and 5 knot currents whereas Advanced Open Water Candidates are expected to lead and teach a group of paddlers in these conditions. Competency requires the person to stay upright, maintain boat control and perform efficient rescues. Leading and teaching a group requires significantly more as demonstrated by the evaluation criteria listed above.

This workshop is scheduled to maximize the possibility of having the appropriate conditions since no evaluation can take place in calm conditions. The weather during

this time of year can be anything from sunny and 70s to snowy and 20s. Be especially prepared for wind with cool air temperatures (30-50 degrees) and multiple immersions in 40 degree water. Expect to be on the water or beach the majority of the time.

The workshop is listed to run 3 days. However it can and will run shorter if the material can be covered in less time permitted of course by the conditions present. Please note it is necessary to have conditions on at least one day for candidates to be assessed.

DATES: October 17-19, 2008

WORKSHOP TUITION: \$330

PREREQUISITE SKILLS: All candidates are expected to have competency in conditions exceeding 25 knot winds, 5 foot seas and 5 knot currents. Candidates are expected to have taken the ACA Coastal Kayaking (CK) Rough Water Maneuvering, Towing and Rescues and the CK Surf Zone Skills Advancement course or have equivalent experience. All candidates are interviewed via phone before being accepted to ensure they have the appropriate background for this course. Applicants without the appropriate experience and/or skills will not be accepted. Additionally all candidates are expected to have current ACA and SEIC membership and are Instructors in good standing.

LOCATION: Marquette, MI. Located on the south shore of Lake Superior, Marquette offers several locations appropriate for this workshop.

EQUIPMENT: Participants are expected to bring the equipment necessary for running an Advanced Open Water course under the conditions present. Additionally, the shoreline is both sandy and rocky in the Marquette area. Expect to be paddling and landing on both types of shoreline.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Marquette Country Visitors Bureau (906-228-7749) can offer assistance in finding lodging. Camping is offered in nearby Tourist Park Campground (906-228-0466) or Gitche Gumme Campground & RV Park (906-249-9102). There are numerous nearby hotels including the Ramada Inn (906-228-6000).

TO REGISTER: Fill out the enclosed registration form and mail it with the tuition 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. Full refunds in the event the course does not run due to conditions. Refunds, minus a \$50 fee, can be obtained up to 2 weeks prior to class date. Class space is limited and it is recommended to register as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Sam Crowley
ACA AOW ITE