

# Downtown Boathouse Public Boat Policy.

## Document History.

9/8/2004 Initial Draft.

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6/26/2008 Version 9 No less than 3 out to sea. Minimum no Expert status implied. Yearly Review of Status.

## Introduction.

This policy is being established to ensure that people leaving the protected areas in Boathouse owned kayaks have the minimum suitable skills for going out into the open river.

**It is also expected that people behave responsibly and safely on the river, being mindful of traffic, currents and weather and other factors that can affect conditions on the river.**

## Definitions.

Public Boat - A kayak owned by the Downtown Boathouse Inc.

Decked Kayak - A traditional kayak where the user sits inside an enclosed cockpit and uses a spray skirt.

Boathouse Embayment: A protected area adjacent to one of the Downtown Boathouse locations that is bounded on the shore on one side, open to the river on one side, and bounded by a pier or structure on the other 2 sides. The boundaries of the Boathouse Embayment at each location have been established and are overseen by the volunteers who work at the location.

Active Volunteer: A person who periodically volunteers time to work at one of the Downtown Boathouse locations providing service to the Boathouse. The Boathouse does not have a mechanism for tracking volunteer time, but a commitment of **60** or more hours per calendar year is required for a volunteer to be considered an Active volunteer.

Authorized Public Boat User: An Active Volunteer who has been authorized by the Downtown Boathouse Secretary to paddle a Public Boat outside of the Boathouse Embayment.

Public Trip Leader: An Active Volunteer who has been authorized by the Downtown Boathouse Secretary to lead trips on the river.

Organized Boathouse Trip: A trip outside of the Boathouse Embayment that is organized and run by the Downtown Boathouse, and has an authorized Public Trip Leader leading the trip. These trips are announced on the Downtown Boathouse volunteer email list, or the Downtown Boathouse website. A trip may include members of the general public, Boathouse volunteers, or both.

## Trip Rules.

Public boats may only be taken out of the embayment in groups of (3) **three** or more. No one may take any public boat outside of the embayment by himself or herself.

**If for some reason you expect to be out beyond sunset all paddlers must have lights, no exceptions!**

All trips leaving the Boathouse embayment must sign-out in the Boathouse logbook, and sign back in upon returning.

No trip may leave the Boathouse embayment using one or more public boats if an officer of the Downtown Boathouse determines that the conditions are not suitable, or the trip conflicts with another Boathouse activity.

Any incidents or accidents must be reported, to the Secretary, and recorded in the Boathouse incident book.

Unless the trip is an organized Boathouse trip, all persons using public boats must be on the authorized public boat user list.

If a trip includes five or more public boats, the trip must be an organized Boathouse trip. Organized Boathouse trip organizers must coordinate with the appropriate people to avoid conflicts with other trips, special events, or the Boathouse public programs. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of their trip. Trip must be reported to Secretary.

#### **Authorized Public Boat User List.**

The Boathouse will maintain an authorized public boat user list. This list will be updated throughout the year. The following criteria will be used to add or remove people from the list:

- The applicant must be an active volunteer.
- Any formal certification from the ACA, or BCU will be considered, but will not be the sole qualification.
- The applicant must demonstrate the ability to control their boat in a variety of conditions.
- The applicant must be familiar with local tides, weather, motorboat traffic, security zones, and demonstrate knowledge of basic navigation.
- The applicant must demonstrate their boat handling skills in the open river by assisting on a number of the morning public trips, and participating in organized Boathouse trips. When attending these trips the applicant must inform the trip leader that they are applying for the authorized public boat list. During or after the trip the trip leader may ask the applicant to demonstrate various skills or answer questions. The trip leader will report to the Secretary, who will make a written record of the applicant's performance of the aforementioned skills. Reports by more than one trip leader will normally be required for all applicants.
- The applicant must attend the Wednesday night local conditions and navigation classes held by the Boathouse, and Self & Assisted Rescue class or an equivalent volunteer training session.

**The applicant must be able to perform a self-Rescue and an Assisted Rescue.**

**The applicant must be able to demonstrate the proper use of a Tow-belt.**

**Once added to the Authorized Public Boat User List no Expert Status is implied!**

#### **Limitations.**

Limitations may be associated with an authorized public boat user regarding the type of equipment they can use or locations in which they may paddle. Currently the only limitation is that the user may be authorized only for a Sit-on-Top boat.

#### **Review.**

The authorized public boat user list will be reviewed on a yearly basis, and **an authorized public boat user may be asked to attend an additional training session, demonstrate their skills on a yearly basis** or establish their ongoing volunteer commitment.

**"Public boats may only be used for trips in the local waters that start and end at the Boathouse. Public boats may never be transported by car, truck, or trailer without the written permission of a Downtown Boathouse officer, and under the supervision of a public trip leader."**