

Brian Blankinship Paddling Bio

Brian is the owner of Bay Kayaking www.baykayaking.com teaching sea kayaking and surf ski technique, and leading trips including paddle/pedal excursions. He specializes in teaching Performance Paddling, having studied under multiple Olympians and World Champions. Brian is an “Epic Expert” authorized to represent Epic Kayaks.

Brian Blankinship earned his L4 Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor certification in 2001 later adding a Traditional Paddling Endorsement. He is previously certified as a British Canoe 4 Star, and ACA canoeing instructor. Brian earned the ACA’s Rushton Award and is currently the ACA Deputy State Director for Virginia.

Brian has instructed at The East Coast Paddlesports Symposium, Charleston SC and every Kiptopeke Sea Kayaking Symposium in Virginia.

Previously the Coordinator of the 650 member *Chesapeake Paddlers Association* (CPA) for two terms, he has been on the Steering Committee or other leadership positions for 20 years.

Brian has instructed at every CPA SK101 Introduction to Sea Kayaking for the last 21 years. He invented, and for 21 years has run SK102 an annual, weekend long skills clinic for over 100 participants. He also invented and has run all SK302 Trip Leader Training sessions for CPA.

He is formerly the volunteer Director of the Kayaking Camp for the West River Center and formerly an Instructor for the US Government, having studied Instructional Systems Design and instructional techniques at several intelligence agencies.

During his time as a kayak racer, Brian came in fourth kayak at two internationally classed races: The *Mayor’s Cup* around Manhattan Island, and the *Blackburn Challenge*. He has many local and regional victories. Brian has appeared in several national paddling magazines, an ACA training film, and multiple websites and was featured by a local government organization.