



Adaptive Paddling Workshop

Instructor Endorsement Criteria

Course Overview:

Designed for instructors, outfitters, recreation program managers, trip leaders, rehabilitation specialists and those who want to include people with disabilities in paddlesport programs, Adaptive Paddling Workshops teach instructors how to compensate for a paddler's loss of function due to disability and how to adapt equipment and instruction, focusing on the paddler's ability. Adaptive Paddling Workshops include hands-on learning in both a classroom and in calm, protected waters. Current ACA Paddling Instructors will earn the Adaptive Endorsement upon successful completion. All other ACA members, who are not certified ACA instructors, will earn a Certificate of Completion upon successful demonstration of endorsement criteria.

Course Prerequisites:

- All participants must acknowledge personal compliance with the [ACA Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\)](#)
- Be a current certified ACA Paddling Instructor at Level 1 or above (for Endorsement)
- Be a current ACA Member (for Certificate of Completion)

Course Duration: 16 hours minimum

Course Location / Accessible Venues: Classroom, covered boat outfitting area, ACA Level 1 water venue (pool preferred)

Course Ratios:

- 5 Endorsement Candidates : 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional AC Endorsed Instructor the ratio can be 10:2. The maximum number of candidates permitted is 10.
 - Minimum 1 Endorsement Candidate present for each paddlesport student with a disability
 - Maximum 3 Endorsement Candidates for each paddlesport student with a disability

Endorsement Maintenance Requirements:

- Maintain an ACA Instructor Certification in any paddling discipline
- Teach and properly report at least 2 courses that include at least 1 student with a disability within the 4-year endorsement period

Adaptive Paddling Instructor Endorsement Criteria:

- Demonstrate understanding of core ACA Instructional skills:
 - Teaching theory
 - Learning theory
 - Effective methods of providing feedback
- Demonstrate knowledge & ability to perform & convey the following current best practices:
 - Development and application of Essential Eligibility Criteria
 - Interaction with persons with disabilities

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- Medical information collection and rules about disclosure
- Transfers and carries
- Demonstrate ability & knowledge necessary to create safe outfitting to compensate for varied losses of function & to meet student needs:
 - Skin protection
 - Paddlecraft outfitting design and construction
 - Paddle outfitting design and construction
- Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in an instructional team environment:
 - Work well with students, including demonstrated ability to effectively listen & apply student concerns & desires
 - Work well with other members of instructional teams
 - Actively participates in discussions throughout APW on pertinent topics & issues
 - Assesses students need in instruction & teaches to student abilities within context of an ACA Level 1 curriculum
- Demonstrate ability to paddle and perform rescues efficiently & comfortably, while maintaining appropriate situational awareness & group management in protected calm water
- Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience and judgment necessary for proper risk management and effective instruction