



NZOIA KAYAK 1



INSTRUCTOR ASSESSMENTS

WARNING WARNING WARNING

Please read the following fine print:

"The Surgeon General warns that an over consumption of the following is dangerous to ones health, sanity, and wallet. Proceed with caution."

- Paddling Class V?
- Like the technical 'steep and deep'?
- Upgrading to the latest play-boat every six months?
- Scrounging for a summer 'helicopter fly in' fund?
- Dreaming of paddling Costa Rica, Nepal, Chile, California, Idaho...
- Listening to thrash, reggae, dub, drum and bass, hip hop?
- Wanting to pass a Kayak 1 instructor assessment?
- Expecting a return on a \$400 'investment'?

Q: Why do Kayak 1 Assessments provide the greatest number of deferrals and re-assessments of all NZOIA programmes?

Answers:

1. Many people choose to bypass the Flat-water Kayak award and go straight to the Whitewater Kayak one award.
2. Top boaters who are HOT creekers and rodeo stars front up expecting to pass because they can boof & cartwheel their way down the river, but have only the barest minimal instructional time.
3. Some candidates present themselves not knowing what's in the syllabus and not being able to demonstrate and teach parts of the syllabus.

Our View.....

Kayak 1 is NOT an entry-level award! Flat-water Kayak and Rock 1 are on a 'par' if that is how you want to look at things. ***Kayak 1 is NOT just about personal paddling on Class 3 water.*** Personal paddling constitutes just 1/6 of the 3 day assessment. You need to remember that Kayak 1 is first and foremost an **INSTRUCTIONAL** award. If you can't role model, manage beginner to intermediate paddlers on flat and moving water, inspire and enthuse, teach and understand rolling and stroke production, demonstrate and carry out river rescue techniques then you will not pass!

Q: How do I pass then?

A: READ THE SYLLABUS, SEEK TRAINING, DO THE TIME and GET LOTS AND LOTS OF FEEDBACK.

(Winging it doesn't work, i.e. turning up to see where you are at is an expensive way to find out if you meet the standard)!

A FEW HOT TIPS

- **Talk to people who have sat assessments. (Don't believe all the stories)**
- **Talk to Assessors. (Get a list from the Administration officer)**
- **Have a well thought out training plan at least 6-8 months away from the date your application is due...not the date of the assessment!**
- **Sign up for some quality 'Instructor Training' from qualified and current instructors who are in the know well before your assessment date, and then give yourself enough time to act on their feedback and incorporate it into your paddling and teaching. ('Good Things Take Time')**
- **READ THE SYLLABUS! (AGAIN)**
- **Ensure you have more instructional mileage than the minimum outlined in the syllabus. (Better to cruise the assessment, it should be another day at the office, rather than a new experience where you struggle, become stressed and end up with a bad taste in your mouth)**
- **Give formal instruction to a variety of people not just your 'mates'.**
- **Ask for and search out feedback from a variety of folks on your teaching skills and methods.**
- **Be prepared to discuss, debate, teach, and fault find the sweep, C to C and front to back deck rolls.**
- **READ THE SYLLABUS! (Again & Again & ask questions)**
- **Try to find out what is happening in the States, UK and other parts of NZ with regard to teaching and instruction. (Knowing the latest hot rodeo moves won't help)**
- **Know what a 'hanging stern draw' is, be able to demo, role model and teach this.**
- **Research the area your assessment is likely to take place in.**
- **Talk to locals with regard to contingencies and options in different weather and river conditions.**
- **Use the checklists and rate your skills and identify where you are at.**
- **READ THE SYLLABUS! (One more time)**
- **The ability to make an honest and realistic self-assessment is perhaps the most valuable asset a Kayak 1 candidate and indeed any instructor can have.**
- **Read NZOIA's kayak manual and other current books.**
- **View the current instructional videos.**

PS This is a light-hearted attempt to increase your awareness of Kayak 1 assessments. We want you to PASS. It's better for all concerned if you DO. The beer then tastes better not bitter. Hope this HELPS!!