

Sea Kayak Proficiency Award

This award is administered by a range of tertiary organizations throughout New Zealand. It is also offered as sea kayak unit standards as part of the Adventure Tourism domain national qualification with ATTTO (Aviation, Tourism & Travel Organisation).

It was developed by SKOANZ (Sea Kayak Operators Association New Zealand), NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association) and KASK (Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers) as an entry award to measure your personal skills before you start your pathway into the guiding and instruction sea kayak industry. To complete this award you will need to contact a private provider, club or tertiary provider.

This award is not a qualification to work as a professional. Please go to either www.nzoi.org.nz or www.skoanz.org.nz for further information on professional qualifications for the industry.

SCOPE

For recreational sea kayakers seeking formal recognition of their skill and knowledge, and for those who are starting on the pathway to higher-level awards.

1. CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

1. Select clothing and personal gear for sea kayaking
2. Select equipment for sea kayaking
3. Select, store and maintain safety equipment
4. Check the sea kayak and equipment for wear and damage
5. Transport the sea kayaks and equipment for sea kayaking without damage to gear, vehicle, or trailer.
6. Describe safety equipment used for sea kayaking
7. Describe kayaks in terms of their design features and uses
8. Describe sea kayaking equipment in terms of design and uses
9. Identify and repair worn and damaged equipment
10. Carry out field repairs
11. Select and justify clothing and equipment are selected according to trip requirements
12. Plan the trip according to the trip and local marine requirements
13. Pack the sea kayak with overnight gear in accordance with the expected sea and weather conditions, to maintain all packed gear in dry condition

2. SEA KAYAK SKILLS

1. Launch and retrieve the sea kayak from the water without damage.
2. Maintain control of the kayak while maneuvering with and without the use of a rudder
3. Achieve the purpose and identify the technical elements of specific paddle strokes, with and without the use of a rudder
4. Demonstrate a brace that rights the sea kayak from a point of capsize
5. Bring the sea kayak to stop from a fast paddle within two boat lengths or 3 – 4 paddle strokes
6. Demonstrate an effective stern rudder from both sides
7. Demonstrate side surfing or a controlled broach using braces from both sides, with the sea kayak stable and controlled
8. Avoid obstacles using appropriate strokes and boat control including railing/ edging
9. Exit from the beach and land the sea kayak on the beach in the sea kayak demonstrating control at all times.

10. Land and launch the sea kayak in surf with the sea kayak stable, maintaining control at all times
11. Demonstrate efficient and effective paddling strokes when packed for multi day trips
12. Describe and apply the dynamics of surf and wave formations and applied to the sea kayak trip to ensure safety of self
13. Apply the effects of tide, current, wind, and local conditions to the sea kayak trip to ensure safety of self
14. Recognise life threatening weather signs and make and justify decisions in accordance with safety considerations
15. Identify environmental hazards in terms of their possible effect on the kayak, and demonstrate methods for avoiding them
16. Make decisions regarding trip commencement and completion in terms of safety for self and group
17. Adjustment of procedures allows for the strengths and weaknesses of others in the group, and mutual support is demonstrated
18. Calculate times and distances for the legs of the planned sea kayak trip
19. Take a navigational fix from known landmarks using a map and compass
20. Follow a bearing allowing for wind and sea conditions
21. Identify location and give a 6-figure grid reference from a topographical map
22. Undertake camping in accordance with the Environmental Code of Practice
23. Manage the campsite in accordance with the Environmental Code of Practice

Rescues

- Demonstrate a self-rescue with paddle float, stirrup or sling
- Demonstrate an unassisted self-rescue
- Demonstrate a rescue of a single sea kayak and a double sea kayak, a weak swimmer and a strong swimmer
- Prioritise and justify actions in relation to the prevailing conditions
- Demonstrate knowledge of “Help” and “Huddle” positions
- Complete a single roll successfully, consistently, and confidently between waves with the sea-kayak stable at all times with paddling position and readiness regained promptly on completion of the roll

Sea Kayak Guides Award / Sea Kayak Instructors Award

The Sea Kayak Guides Award is administered by NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association) on behalf of the Sea Kayak Operators Association New Zealand (SKOANZ). Please go the NZOIA website at: www.nzoia.org.nz for further information on the Sea Kayak Guides Award and also the Sea Kayak Instructors Award.
