



GLSKA FAQ

Does GLSKA offer guided trips?

No. GLSKA trips are organized and led by volunteer members.

Does GLSKA provide kayaking or camping gear for trips?

No. GLSKA does not provide kayaking gear or camping gear. All participants are expected to have their own gear, or to make their own arrangements for rental gear.

Are meals provided on GLSKA trips?

No. Participants in GLSKA trips are expected to supply and prepare all their own meals. There may be opportunities to pool resources with another participant, to share meal-planning/cooking duties, but you would make your own arrangements for that.

Does GLSKA provide kayaking lessons?

No. GLSKA does not offer any formal accredited lesson programs. However, GLSKA does offer numerous skills development opportunities, including pool sessions, skills-oriented trips, and both on-water and off-water workshops at certain GLSKA events, notably our spring Rendezvous.

Can I bring a guest on GLSKA trips?

In some cases. Guests may accompany a GLSKA member on day-trips only, up to a maximum of two times. However, multi-day and overnight trips are limited to GLSKA members only.

Can I bring a child on GLSKA trips?

Yes, under certain circumstances. If you hold a family membership, your child is listed as a supplementary member under your membership, and your child possesses the necessary skills for the particular trip.

Do I need to be an experienced paddler to join GLSKA?

No. Anyone 18 years of age or older, with an interest in kayaking, can join GLSKA. Children under 18 may join, but only as supplementary members on their parent's family membership. Some GLSKA events, notably our spring Rendezvous, are great opportunities for newer paddlers to learn and develop skills, in a safe environment.

What does it cost to join GLSKA?

We offer individual memberships, and family memberships. Refer to our Join/About Us page, for our current annual fees. Memberships are good for the calendar year and expire at the end of December each year.

What kind of kayak is recommended for GLSKA membership?

Our members own many different kinds of kayaks. However, to participate in GLSKA trips, only certain types of kayaks are acceptable. Most of our members own sea kayaks that are suitable for extended open water paddling with full cargo.

Do I need a wetsuit or drysuit to join GLSKA?

No. However, for safety, we recommend always dressing for the water temperature, rather than the air temperature. Depending on your destination, the water may be very cold even when the air temperature is warm. Therefore, if you don't have appropriate gear, you may be limited in which events you can participate in.

Do I have to wear a PFD to paddle with GLSKA?

Yes. GLSKA enforces all Canada Coast Guard minimum equipment requirements, on all of its trips.

What are pool sessions?

GLSKA offers pool sessions at various locations each year. Member volunteers organize the pool sessions by renting public pool facilities, and offering this time to members, on a first-come, first-served basis. These are not formal lessons, but experienced member volunteers are available to assist those who would like help. The pool sessions are an excellent way to work on improving your re-entry and rescue skills, in a safe, warm-water environment.

Can I bring a guest to GLSKA pool sessions?

No. For insurance purposes, only GLSKA members may participate in pool sessions.

Does GLSKA provide kayaks for pool sessions?

No. GLSKA does not own any kayaks or kayaking equipment, and does not provide any for the pool sessions. Participants are expected to supply all of their own equipment.

What is Rendezvous?

GLSKA's spring Rendezvous is a weekend of car-camping and socializing with ample opportunities for day paddles on your own or with a group, numerous on-water and on-land workshops to hone your skills, and an epic Saturday night potluck in which members have the opportunity to display their culinary prowess.

Are GLSKA trips suitable for beginners?

Some are, and some aren't. Our trips range from easy paddles designed to encourage inexperienced paddlers to come out and gain experience, to extended wilderness trips in remote areas with long days and limited landing opportunities. All GLSKA trips are rated for difficulty prior to announcement, and Trip Organizers have full discretion to accept or reject a paddler from their trip, based on paddling difficulty and paddler skills.

How do I join a GLSKA trip?

GLSKA trips are organized and led by member volunteers. Trips may be announced at any time during the year, as Trip Organizers make their plans and submit them through our Trip Coordinator. Trips will be added to the GLSKA Trip Calendar, and announced by email to all members, as they become available. The trip announcements provide a description of the destination, the dates, and the trip rating. For safety reasons, most trips are limited to a certain number of participants, so if you see a trip you are interested in, act quickly. Trip Organizers have full discretion to accept or reject a paddler for their trip, based on paddling difficulty and paddler skills.

Does GLSKA have a clubhouse?

No. GLSKA is an association of people interested in sea kayaking and kayak camping. Our paddling destinations range far and wide, so we have no use for a centralized clubhouse. When facilities are required, for a GLSKA event, a suitable facility is rented for that event.