

## **Plast Canada**

### **HUMAN-POWERED WATERCRAFT**

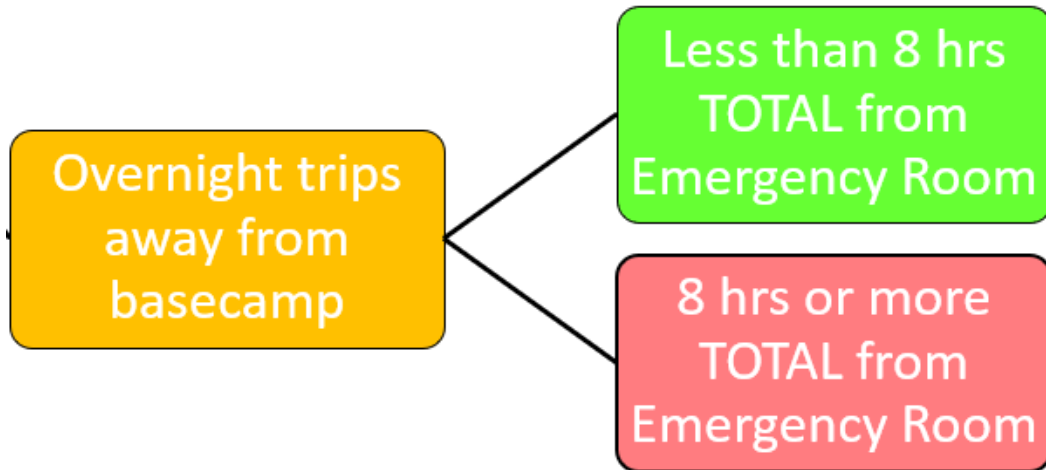
#### **Policy Requirements**

- \* Plast Scouts engaged in instruction for use of a human-powered watercraft or a trip using human-powered watercraft shall be supervised by no fewer than two leaders with an overall staff to participant ratio of 1:8 or better.
- \* Every person (Scout, trip leader, adult volunteer, etc.) must wear an approved and correctly sized Personal Floatation Device (PFD) or life jacket at all times on the water.
- \* Human-powered watercraft used by Plast Scouts shall meet Transport Canada/Coast Guard regulations including and not limited to having required emergency equipment on board such as a sound signalling device, bailing device, and 15m heaving line.
- \* Plast Scouts shall follow all Transport Canada/Coast Guard regulations when using human-powered watercraft including and not limited to having a watertight flashlight on board when operating in hours of darkness. Plast Canada discourages the operation of human-powered watercraft in hours of darkness.
- \* Plast Canada shall contract with a third-party provider for sea kayaking trips going to locations where there are tides, currents, and maritime traffic.
- \* Plast Scouts engaged in instruction for use of a human-powered watercraft or a trip using human-powered watercraft shall be supervised by at least one leader who holds a current Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross or Canadian Red Cross Assistant Lifeguard certificate (or higher). This requirement is NOT met by having a minor-aged camper with this qualification participating on the trip.
- \* Plast Scouts engaged in a backcountry trip using human-powered watercraft shall be accompanied by at least one leader who has a current Standard First Aid/CPR certificate.
- \* Plast Scouts engaged in an extended backcountry trip using human-powered watercraft shall be accompanied by at least one leader who has a current 16-hour basic wilderness first aid / CPR certificate. The other leader must have as a minimum a current Standard First Aid/CPR certificate.
- \* Trip leaders for backcountry or extended backcountry trips using human-powered watercraft shall undergo trip familiarization and pre-trip training.
- \* Plast Scouts engaging in extended backcountry trips using human-powered watercraft shall undergo trip familiarization and pre-trip training.
- \* Plast Scouts encountering Class I or higher whitewater shall receive a minimum of 8 hours training before going downriver where they will encounter rapids.

## Explanatory Material

The specific requirements for trip leadership during camp depends upon the maximum remoteness of the group during the trip, either:

1. Backcountry – less than 8 hrs total travel from emergency services
2. Extended Backcountry – 8 hrs or more from emergency services



Leaders included in the trip supervision ratio are capable of managing the group alone – this requirement reflects a situation where it becomes necessary for the group to split up or if the primary leader becomes incapacitated.

In Ontario, the Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA) provides canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, and voyageur canoeing courses for instructors and trip leaders. ORCKA certification supplements but does not replace First Aid and Swimming requirements.

Group size and leader qualifications may need to be adjusted from the minimum requirements of this policy to provide appropriate supervision, group management, emergency response capability, as well as effective instruction. Considerations may include the technical aspects of the activity, staff training and competency, remoteness of the activity location, environmental factors, and the participant profile.

## Procedures

1. When assigning a leadership team to a trip, the camp director (or designate) will designate which individual is the lead and which is the assistant leader.
2. When other activities and trips are planned as part of the camp program, the camp director (or designate) will also consult the policies and information for those activities. (For example, if swimming is anticipated during a trip using human-powered watercraft, adherence to swimming policies is also an essential part of the trip plan.)

## Recommendations



At least one trip leader should have tripping experience using the same type of watercraft in the area (or similar setting) and weather conditions. This experience may have been gained on personal trips, as a participant, or as a trip leader.



On backcountry trips using human-powered watercraft, having both trip leaders with Standard First Aid / CPR is highly recommended and having a trip leader with 16-hour wilderness first aid is encouraged.



On extended backcountry trips using human-powered watercraft, having two trip leaders with wilderness first aid is highly recommended.



At least one trip leader should have instructor certification reflecting the type of human-powered watercraft being used. See the explanatory note on ORCKA.



Having two trip leaders with Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross (or higher) is highly recommended.



In addition to the general tripping requirements outlined in STAFFING FOR PLAST CAMPS, a reasonable expectation is that a leader has 10 days of experience using that type of human-powered watercraft in the previous 5 years.



Where an overnight component is part of the trip, a reasonable expectation is that a leader has 10 nights of camping experience in the previous 5 years.



The maximum number of human-powered watercraft in a tripping group should not exceed 8.

## Definitions

Backcountry Trip	The group remains within 8-hours TOTAL travel <u>under their own power</u> to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained
Canoeing	The group travels by canoe on flatwater. No overnight component.
Canoe Camping	The group travels by canoe on flatwater with one or more nights away from camp.
Extended Backcountry Trip	The trip includes locations where the group would be faced with travelling 8-hours or more <u>under their own power</u> to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained

Human-Powered Watercraft	A category used by Transport Canada to describe any pleasure craft that operates without a motor including and not limited to: sailing, paddling, canoeing, kayaking, sea kayaking, stand-up paddle-boarding, and rowing (boat or dory)
Trip	The group is away from main camp AND independent of its support services

## References

Plast Canada Policy – Staffing for Plast Camps

## Forms

## Administration

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