



# Alaska Sea Kayaking Symposium

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On the Internet: [www.aksks.org](http://www.aksks.org)

## Questions & Answers

### SECTIONS

**Beginning Section:** this includes the youth section, no previous experience needed. 80% of participants fall into this category. Topics include:

- equipment and clothing
- wet exits and re-entries
- paddling skills
- practice, practice, practice

**Youth & Family Section:** the schedule is the same as the Beginning Section. Ages 14-17 can attend without an adult. Participants ages 10-13 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Intermediate Section:** previous experience required: previous instruction and/or multiple extended trips with experienced paddlers. Have practiced on water re-entries in the last year or so. Contact Symposium Coordinator before confirming placement. Topics include:

- specialized equipment
- wet exits and re-entries, more practice and different types
- expedition paddling techniques and considerations
- wind, waves and surf
- braces-initial and secondary stability

**Intermediate Refresher:** anyone with previous on water re-entry experience who needs to brush up on this skill and wants to also attend the full Lecture Series. A one and one half hour pool session is provided with instruction for re-entry practice and the weekend lecture series and Saturday night festivities are included.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

**Will I get wet?** Yes, in the pool and possibly in the lake if... oops you go in. It is not part of the curriculum at to beginning level. The intermediate tract GOES IN GOOSE LAKE and the pool.

**Do I need a dry/wet suit?** Not for the beginning tract. It is optional for the intermediate tract yet if you want to get in a lot of practice it is the best choice.

**Will I be able to paddle on my own after taking the symposium?** NO, not even after attending the intermediate tract. There is not enough time to learn all there is to learn in one weekend. Plan on going with experienced friends or a guide. You should be able to access the risks of sea kayaking which should then help to make the necessary decisions to keep yourself safe.

**Can anyone demo boats?** Yes, Saturday the general public can go to the lake and try out VENDOR boats. They must sign a release and get a bracelet from Moseley or at the lake under the big tent. They have to meet our age requirements (younger than 10 must have special permission from coordinator).

**What are the lectures in the lecture series?** The list will be developing and made available as it is confirmed. See brochure for main list, other lectures will be offered and a schedule will be available in April.

**Do I need my own boat?** NO, there are singles and doubles available during the on water time. There are also demo boats that you will be able to try.

**What do I need to bring?** See gear list. It will be included in the packet that is sent prior to the event.

**Where does the symposium start?** We park and meet at the Atwood Center on APU Campus. Registration and check in are from 5-6pm Friday evening. Parking is available in front of the center. A map will be included in the packet that is sent prior to the event.

**Who can attend the Saturday Night Keynote presentation, Trade Show and food fest?** Full participants, Intermediate Refresher participants, Lecture Series participants and the general public (tickets available for general public). This starts at 5pm and finishes at 8pm.

**What are the age limitations?** 17 or under must have a guardian signature. 10-17 must attend the Youth & Family Section. 10-13 must have an adult with them. 14-17 can attend without an adult with them.

**Who are the/my instructor(s)?** Professionals in the field of sea kayaking provide instruction and feedback throughout the weekend. Actual instructor/student groups are not determined until Friday night.

**What is the student to instructor ratio?** AKSKS maintains a 6 or 7 students to 1 instructor ratio.

**Our website URL is aksks.org.** Online registration and all forms available at the website.