



Traveling by water presents greater safety challenges than traveling on land: Weather, waves, tides and currents, water levels, large boat traffic and other concerns all pose risks. Safe boating begins with being aware of these factors before going out on the water. Remember to swim and boat only when sober, wear a life jacket, follow the "rules of the road," and, most importantly, have fun! For more information, visit

www.goboatingwa.com

Legislation created the Boating Program in 1983 and made Washington State Parks responsible for administering the program.

The goal of the program is to reduce accidents and fatalities, increase stewardship of Washington waterways, and keep recreational boating a safe, accessible and enjoyable pastime.

Partners include law enforcement agencies, state agencies, marinas and boating organizations across Washington.



Boating Program

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All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. P&R 45-15500-36 (12/17)

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Paddling To Be Seen



Boating Program

www.parks.state.wa.us/boating

PADDLING TO BE SEEN

Many factors can prevent other boaters from seeing you in a kayak or other small craft that sits low in the water. Be seen on the water by using the right combination of color, contrast and movement to maximize your visibility.

PADDLESPORT VISIBILITY TIPS

Use your head. Your head is your highest point; make it as bright as possible. Fluorescent orange or yellow hats provide excellent visibility.

Bright is best. Choose a brightly colored life jacket and wear a fluorescent-colored jacket or over-shirt. To maximize your visibility, consider wearing a life jacket in a color that contrasts with the color of your kayak, paddle blades and jacket or over-shirt.

Blazing paddles. Motion is another important visibility tool. Your blades are in constant motion while paddling. Increase your visibility by using reflective tape on blades or shafts combined with strips of fluorescent tape. This allows your paddle to catch and reflect sunlight as well as create flashes of fluorescent color.

Fly the flag. Fluorescent orange or yellow pole flags provide a permanent bright flash. Consider always using a flag if you are fishing from a kayak or in a stationary position, as you don't have the added visibility of your moving paddle blades.

Choose a colorful craft. Choose a craft in a bright color that contrasts with the water and surrounding backdrops.

To increase your visibility, consider adding flashes of fluorescent or reflective tape to your boat.

Be bright at night. State and federal laws require all boats—including kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards—to carry a white navigation light during conditions of low visibility, such as at dusk or in fog. Since carrying a flashlight or lantern while paddling isn't realistic, consider wearing a headlamp. Also, mounting an all-round white light on your rear deck, above head height, means you will be visible from all directions. Only use flashing strobe lights in an emergency.

Stick together.

A pod of kayaks is easier to see.

And don't forget to...

- File a float plan.
- Carry two forms of communication (VHF radio, cellphone, flares or locator beacon) in a waterproof bag or container. Carry them on you, in case you're separated from your vessel. If you're going where there is no cell phone or VHF radio coverage—take a personal locator beacon.
- Wear your life jacket.
- Dress for the condition—**stay on top, stay warm, be found!**



BE SAFE, BE SEEN



For more paddlesport safety tips visit www.paddlesafewa.org