

Kayak/Canoe Launch

Safety Rules & Recommendations

WARNING!

Please note that paddling and boating are potentially hazardous recreational activities. The risk of injury from canoeing and kayaking can be significant including the potential for serious injury, disability, paralysis and death. There are no lifeguards or safety personnel at the launch or the lake.

- 1. No Motors** The canoe launch is restricted to human propelled watercraft.
- 2. Enter Water at Your Own Risk**
Know the water conditions and your paddling capabilities. Water depth may exceed 10 feet. Be aware of hazards, as with any outdoor area, such as low hanging branches, branches in water, submerged obstacles, slippery banks and sharp objects on the lake bottom. Also present are natural hazards such as alligators, hanging wasp's nests, snakes, poison ivy, etc. Make sure your paddling skills are equal to the water conditions. When in doubt, don't.
- 3. Closely Supervise Minors**
Minors under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in paddlecraft or in close proximity by paddlecraft.
- 4. Wear Your Life Jacket; Carry Safety Gear**
State and federal laws require operators of paddlecraft to have:
 - A personal flotation device (USCG- approved Type III-V PFD)for each person aboard the vessel (Children under 13 years of age in or on vessels under 26 feet must wear a USCG-approved PFD.)
 - An efficient sound-signaling device (an approved whistle would suffice.)
 - A white light source visible from 360 degrees if paddling in reduced visibility.
- 5. No Swimming**
- 6. Wear Proper Clothing and Footwear**
Footwear is extremely important. The lake bottom is muddy and contains pointed logs and sharp metal and glass objects. River shoes or old sneakers are the best footwear for water sports.
- 7. Plan Your Trip; Have a Checklist**
Familiarize yourself with the water body before beginning. Always file a "float plan". Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected to return. Check weather forecasts. Do not boat in bad weather. Carry a cell phone and a water-proof first-aid kit with snake bite kit. Bring a spare paddle. Carry plenty of drinking water and food, sunscreen and insect repellent. Tie all loose gear into your boat or canoe so you do not lose anything if you turn over.
- 8. Take a Canoe/Kayak Safety Course**
Classes are available on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website and by other boating safety organizations.
- 9. No Alcoholic Beverages**
Possession and consumption of alcohol is not permitted. Drinking and boating is dangerous and the cause of most boating fatalities. It is unlawful for any person to operate while intoxicated.
- 10. Be a Good Outdoor Steward**
Don't litter. Be sure to take a bag to hold your trash for proper disposal when you leave the water. Admire wild animals from a distance. Do not feed, kill or disturb any wildlife.
- 11. Share the Water**
When approaching anglers or other paddlers, give them a wide berth and proceed quietly so as not to interfere with their recreation.
- 12. Be Gator Safe**
 - Do not feed alligators. Discourage others from feeding them.
 - Don't get too close to them. Do observe from a safe distance.
 - Don't let your pets near them.
 - Don't agitate or tease them. Do not try to catch or harm one.
 - Don't approach an alligator's nest.
 - Do treat them with respect as an important element of nature.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO THE SUGAR LAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT (281)275-2020.
IF IT IS A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY, CALL 911.

