

FLM Kayak Protocols – 2020

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, the Finger Lakes Museum (FLM) has incorporated a new set of protocols for our kayaking programs. These protocols are based on information gathered from various sources that can be considered leaders within the industry. It is our intent to continue to provide high quality paddling experiences, while minimizing exposure to illness.



FLM Responsibilities

- Ensure that all equipment is sanitized and given a chance to air out between each program and/or rental.
- Provide on-line registration and liability waiver, to eliminate the use of a common pen and clipboard.
- Keep a supply of hand sanitizer, masks and gloves on hand should the need for them arise.
- E-mail participants before the program so that they are aware of our procedures, and what is expected of them during the program.
- Ensure that any food and beverages provided will be individually wrapped, and handled with gloves. Provide water to refill individuals' bottles; handle with gloves.
- Ensure that strict hygiene is maintained, and that all staff, volunteers, and participants wash hands frequently, don't share food or water containers, and frequently clean surfaces that are touched.
- Ensure that staff, volunteers, and participants are all in compliance with these protocols.

Staff/Volunteer Responsibilities

- Show up at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled start time. Masks and gloves shall be worn while prepping and handling the equipment, launch and recovery, and any time that they are within 6 feet of others. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Confirm that everyone is healthy. Does anyone not feel well, or are they exhibiting any signs of illness such as coughing, sniffles, flu-like symptoms, or a temperature of 100 degrees F? Anyone displaying these signs/symptoms will not be allowed to continue and will be asked to leave immediately. Additionally, if anyone has recently visited any country with coronavirus

travel restrictions to the US or have been in contact with someone who has, they will not be permitted to attend.

- All Creekside instruction will be given to clients while 6 feet or more apart.
- FLM staff and volunteers will use caution with stabilizing the kayak for clients as they enter or exit the water. If clients are physically able to do this independently, they will be encouraged to do so.
- Once each person is in the water, he/she will be able to remove mask and gloves and store them away for the duration of the paddle. There will be no rafting up, or encouragement of close interaction between boats. *Exception: clients on a private paddle may choose to raft up for the purpose of a photo opportunity.*
- Make sure that clients from different rental parties/groups maintain appropriate distances.
- It is prudent to bear in mind that ACA guidelines strongly recommend paddling well below one's skill level to reduce the risk of injury and the need for rescue.
- Wear mask and gloves while putting out food and beverages.
- After the program/rental period is over, wipe down hard/non-porous surfaces (boats, paddles) with Lysol foaming disinfectant (or equal). Clorox wipes (or equal). Spray porous surfaces (life jackets, seats) thoroughly with Lysol spray disinfectant (or equal) following the instructions on the label. *Do not use any bleach product on life jackets or seats, as this can degrade the material.*
- Hang life jackets on a plastic hanger on the rack in the barn to allow them to air out for 72 hours before they are used again. Label with the date.

Participant Responsibilities

- ***Do not participate in an FLM program if you are ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill.*** If this happens between the time you reserve your kayaks and your rental date, you will be allowed to reschedule with no penalty.
- Participants will come equipped with their own water bottle, hand sanitizer, mask and gloves. They will be asked to maintain a minimum of 6 feet between them and anyone who is not in their party whenever possible. Masks and gloves shall be worn until their craft has been launched. At this point, they may store those in one of the hatches.
- Do not share equipment. Once a participant has been assigned a paddle, life jacket, and boat, it is his/her responsibility to ensure that he/she use the same equipment for the entirety of the

program. Upon return at the end of the paddle, participants will put their mask and gloves back on for landing, cleaning, and storage of equipment.

- Participants will be asked to bring their own life jacket, if they have one.
- During any social time after the paddle (e.g. campfire), participants will maintain appropriate social distance from others not in their party.

The FLM believes that compliance with these protocols on behalf of all parties will minimize the possibility of spread of infectious disease. Thank you for taking the time to read this document thoroughly, and for your cooperation with these practices.

DISCLAIMER: *Remember it is not possible to carry out or guarantee complete disinfection, the goal is to minimize risk.*