

British Canoeing

### **Paddlesport Touring Leader Award**

Paddlesport touring leaders can lead participants on trips in large pieces of open water and easy white water rivers. This is the perfect leadership award for experienced leaders who operate on the larger lakes of Cumbria and on simple white water rivers.

#### **Where does a Paddlesport Touring leader operate?**

Paddlesport Touring Leaders are qualified to take participants:

- Open water journeys up to 500m from the shore.
- In winds up to but not exceeding force 4 (less than 18mph).
- On slow-moving rivers up to and including grade 1 which may include the occasional short rapid of grade 2 and simple safe weirs.
- On estuaries with tidal movement up to 0.5 knots.

This award covers all the open water in the Lake District in appropriate wind and most open water in England and Wales.

River journeys include:

- Easy sections of the river Eden outside the classic white water sections.
- Middle Derwent near Keswick from Derwentwater to Bassenthwaite.
- Upper Derwent from Grange to Derwentwater.
- River Lune below Kirkby Lonsdale.
- River Kent from Burneside to south of Kendal.

Other examples include:

- River Medway.
- River wye around Symonds Yat.

#### **Who can I work with?**

Paddlesport Touring leaders can lead paddlers who need support in the environment in any craft. They can work with groups in a mixture of craft or in the same craft.

They have the experience to decide on the number of paddlers they lead but 6 solo craft or 4 tandem craft would be seen as large groups.

### How does assessment work?

On assessment you will be asked to lead a group on both open water in force 4 and a section of moving water that has some grade 2 white water.

Assessments for 2-4 candidates will be run over two days to allow access to the two different environments.

On an assessment candidates will be expected to be able to:

- Paddle their chosen craft at a good standard in the top end of the remit.
- Rescue all craft from their own craft in a variety of environments whilst maintaining good group control.
- Plan an inspirational journey in a way that encourages independence and development of the participants.
- Lead students on open water and simple white water at the top end of the remit comfortably.

Prior to an assessment you will be given the opportunity to contact the group members to gather information about their ability, equipment needs and aspirations for the trip. You will be encouraged to plan the day in detail with logistical support from Wild River if necessary.

The Leader will be working from their suitably chosen craft and will be assessed leading a group of 4 to 6 paddlers in a variety of craft (including at least one open canoeist, one stand up paddleboarder and one kayaker).

The certificate does not list the craft which the leader was assessed in. It would be best practice for leaders using different craft on future trips to evidence their personal skill and rescue skill with a Performance Award such as the Progressive Canoe Performance Award.

Wild River has scheduled dates for assessment courses. Alternatively, assessments can be booked by individuals on dates that suit. One day assessments for a single candidate may be possible if conditions are appropriate.

### Prerequisites for assessment:

- Prior to assessment all candidates must register with British Canoeing.
- Full National Association Membership.
- Valid (within 3 years) 2 day British Canoeing recognised First Aid Award.
- Valid (within 3 years) Safeguarding Training recognised by British Canoeing.

### **How can Wild River help prepare you prepare for the assessment?**

Wild River runs 2 day training courses.

On our training courses we look at:

- Pre-trip information gathering.
- Trip planning and predicting weather and conditions.
- Safety briefs for mixed fleets in open water and slow moving rivers.
- Group control for mixed fleets in a variety of environments.
- Sailing set ups.
- Games for journeys.
- Wind and current awareness.
- Leading groups in safe but inspirational ways.
- Towing option.
- Rescues of different craft in open water and simple white water.
- Incident management.
- Benchmarking and improvement of personal paddling skill.

You may well also decide to attend:

- A white water safety and rescue course.
- A performance award such as the canoe award or the sheltered water sup award.
- Sea kayak or white water kayak performance award.
- White water sup performance award.
- Receive some bespoke training to move towards assessment.

The key part of any training course is the individual debrief to assist with your development of your detailed action plan.