



Family Guide School Levels of Achievement

GREEN CIRCLE (BEGINNER GUIDE LEVEL)

GUIDE CHARACTER

- Participate proactively in the group's activities (the fun and the hard work)
- Be of service; ask "How can I help?"
- Model personal health and safety (drink water, wear sunscreen, wear PFD, helmet and shoes, proper dress for weather and water levels, no unnecessary flames)

COMMUNICATION

- Introduce self, introduce others, recall names and key facts about trip participants
- Friendly demeanor on and off river; proper river etiquette on river, when scouting and in shared places
- Entertain – share stories, jokes, skits, talent, etc.

LOGISTICS

- Understand release schedules and expected timing of water flows
- Know the plan for the day and what is expected of you and your fellow guides
- Be on time and river ready (with everything you need) for launch

GROUP CAMPING AND GROUP GEAR

- Set up and break down personal camp
- Keep personal belongings and personal camping area clean, organized and safe
- Contribute to keeping the group camp and group gear clean, organized and safe
- Prepare and clean up cold camp breakfast using wilderness kitchen
- Pack, set-up, prepare, and clean up river lunch
- Wash dishes
- Proper treatment, cleaning, storage of personal and group river gear

ON-RIVER SKILLS

- Knows knots – can rig Day Trip gear and can secure boat to tree or rocks
- Basic river swimming in Class I/II and defensive swimmers position Class III/III+
- Can pull a swimmer into up-right and flipped boat
- Reading Water – identify basic obstacles
- Reading Water - recognizes wrap and flip potential
- Basic paddling
- Basic guide strokes and commands
- Row Flat Water / Class I
- Staying in the current in Class I and Class II
- Ferrying and catching eddies in Class II
- Select and execute a line on Class II (scouting and read and run)
- Recovers safely and calmly from missed line on Class II

BLUE SQUARE (INTERMEDIATE GUIDE LEVEL)

GUIDE CHARACTER

- Include others / identify an area of commonality with each trip participant
- Encourage others to try new things and discover their potential
- Share a skill / teach others
- Consistently model teamwork

COMMUNICATION

- Paddle Talk
- Set clear expectations by providing daily trip logistics overview and rules
- Communicate with river signals and demonstrate proper use of whistle
- Clear and assertive paddle commands

LOGISTICS

- Able to plan, pack, load and rig all necessary gear for a Day Trip
- Keep track of time on the river – be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there
- Know the River Map and where you are on the river
- Know the “fun places” on the river and proper procedures for experiencing them safely

CAMPING AND EQUIPMENT

- Set-up and break-down group camp gear (such as wilderness kitchen)
- Coordinate camp trash and recycling
- Scrub pots, pans, knives, clean stoves, Dutch ovens, etc.
- Prepare and clean up hot camp breakfast using wilderness kitchen
- Prepare and clean up camp happy hour and dinner using wilderness kitchen
- Able to plan, pack, load and rig all necessary river gear and lunch for a Day Trip

ON-RIVER SKILLS

- Proactive river swimmer – swimming Class II+/III for fun; catching eddies with precision, quickly and safely getting to a boat or shore
- Can flip boat back-over in flat water
- Scans for and recognizes dangers on and off the river (including poison oak, rattle snakes)
- Aware of downstream safety and looks back to provide safety
- Reading Water – identify hydraulics and anticipate impact on boat control
- Reading Water - understands how wraps and flips occur and how to avoid them
- Can stay in boat order with proper spacing – run in middle of boat order
- Can give good advice to other boaters about Class II rapids
- Surf Class II
- Row Class II
- Staying in the current in Class III/III+
- Ferrying and catching eddies in Class III/III+
- Select and execute a line on Class III/III+ (scouting and read and run)
- Recovers safely and calmly from missed line on Class III/III+

BLACK DIAMOND (ADVANCED GUIDE LEVEL)

GUIDE CHARACTER

- Handle group dynamics and conflict discreetly, fairly, and with diplomacy
- Make choices / decisions that follow laws and rules, meet community norms and expectations, and further the group's overall enjoyment and safety
- Promote positive relationships in the community
- Model leadership

COMMUNICATION

- Safety Talk
- Know who to contact, how to get help, and communicate the request for help effectively
- Maintain calm demeanor at all times even in difficult / stressful situations

LOGISTICS

- Know where you are on the river relative to off-water locations – towns, roads, evacuation routes
- Understand the big picture - how it all comes together between water releases and river time, camp logistics, meals, clients, guides, shuttles, etc.

CAMPING AND EQUIPMENT

- Proper use of camp stove, blaster, Dutch oven, fire pan, hot dish water, and other wilderness kitchen gear that has burn or fire potential
- Solve common mishaps with personal and group camp equipment
- Solve common mishaps with personal and group river gear

ON-RIVER SKILLS

- Knows knots and trailer / roof rack rigging – can direct loading and unloading boats safely for shuttles
- Can lead safe swimming and rock jumping, providing proper direction and setting safety
- Can direct a swimmer to safety
- Can pull self into up-right and flipped boat
- Can coordinate getting a flipped boat into an eddy and flipped back over
- Can set downstream safety
- Reading Water – using features and currents to navigate the river and reach desired destination
- Can assign proper boat order for group and keep tight boat order – able to run lead or sweep
- Can guide floatilla to pass another group using proper river etiquette
- Can give good advice to other boaters about rapids – Class III/III+
- Ferrying and catching eddies consistently and with precision in Class III/III+
- Surf Class III/III+
- Row Class III/III+ - can “push” (not just “pull”) aggressive moves; ships oars forward
- Oar / paddle combo and proper commands
- Brings, knows the location of, and is consistently effective in using all basic safety equipment (such as toss bag) and basic first aid supplies
- Trusted Day Trip leader