

NZOIA™ Canoe Leader Scope and Syllabus

Scope

Canoe Leader Profile

The NZOIA Canoe Leader can:

- Plan and prepare introductory canoeing experiences
- Instruct groups in the canoeing skills required for a positive introductory experience
- Lead and manage groups canoeing on sheltered flat or slow moving water
- Demonstrate effective safety management
- Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills
- Provide interpretive information about natural and cultural history, flora and fauna
- Role model accepted codes of environmental practice

The NZOIA Canoe Leader can work independently without direct supervision. Leaders are qualified to operate within an activity specific risk management plan but the qualification does not define the skill set required to approve such a plan.

This is a foundation level qualification and provides a stepping stone towards the Instructor level qualifications.

Instructional Scope

The NZOIA Canoe Leader can lead canoeing activity on flat or sheltered water with little or no wind present or forecast for the next 12 hours at the selected site. Locations includes estuaries, river deltas, sheltered beaches, lakes, coastal inlets and swimming pools. This includes rivers when the flow and the hazards present no greater risk than flat water.

The following are examples of flat or sheltered water environments that could be within the scope of the Leader depending on the characteristics of the group, weather conditions and equipment:

- Sheltered bays on any lake (e.g. Acacia Bay. Lake Taupo)
- Sheltered bays in a harbour (e.g. Evans Bay)
- Flat water sections of the Waikato (e.g. Lake Karapiro, Big Eddy below the Lake Taupo control gates)
- Avon / Heathcote rivers and estuary

The following are examples that would be beyond the scope of the NZOIA Canoe Leader:

- Open sea
- Crossing of large lakes or sounds
- Grade 1 sections of rivers
- Off shore winds

Equipment

The Canoe Leader can lead participants using open canoes.

Progressing to Instructor level qualifications

As the Canoe Leader gains more experience they may progress towards gaining the NZOIA Kayak Instructor Level 1 qualification. The steps they would follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the NZOIA Canoe Instructor Level 1 pre-requisites.
- Attending a River Safety course.
- Attending an NZOIA Canoe Instructor Level 1 training course.
- Working with a NZOIA Canoe Instructor Level 1 or 2.

Pre-requisites

The NZOIA Canoe Leader will have no less than 10 days (4 hours duration) experience canoeing **and** no less than 5 days additional experience as a co-leader or assistant leader on flat or sheltered water.

The NZOIA Canoe Leader will hold a current First Aid qualification.

The NZOIA Canoe Leader will be 18 years old or over.

Revalidation

The NZOIA Canoe Leader qualification remains valid as long as the holder completes NZOIA's revalidation and registration requirements.

Syllabus

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate knowledge, care and appropriate use of canoes and equipment
2. Demonstrate effective personal canoeing skills
3. Demonstrate effective rescue skills

The Environment

4. Obtain a weather forecast and apply weather interpretation skills
5. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and interpretation of areas visited
6. Describe and role model accepted environmental practices

Group Management and Leadership

7. Lead and manage a group canoeing on flat or slow moving water
8. Demonstrate effective safety management

Instruction

9. Plan and prepare an introductory canoe experience
10. Instruct a group in the canoeing skills required for a positive introductory experience