

Door County Sea Kayak Symposium

July 12 – 14, 2019

Rowleys Bay Resort, Rowleys Bay, WI



Survival Guide

Hooray! It's time for the 16th Annual Door County Sea Kayak Symposium! We're so glad you're joining us for this great gathering of kayakers and look forward to another wonderful weekend together. We hope you'll leave the symposium with increased kayak skills, more confidence on the water, knowledge of topics important to your paddling enjoyment and safety, and a whole batch of new kayaking friends.

This Survival Guide will provide information to help you get the most out of the event. We hope it will answer many of your questions, so please read it carefully. We encourage you to print this guide and bring it with you to the symposium. And please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Please come to the Symposium knowing that even the best plans may change due to numerous circumstances (weather, for example!) beyond our control. Please come prepared to be flexible and to "go with the flow".

Arrival & Check-In

All participants need to check-in at the Stuga building upon arrival. If you can, please check-in the night before your first morning class. This will make it easier for you to be on time to your classes/tours. When you check-in you will receive an information packet containing a copy of your confirmed schedule, a map to locations where classes and tours will be held, and other important information. You will also need to turn in your completed Waiver of Liability and Student Health Information Sheet. Be sure to check-in at the Stuga with adequate time to make your first scheduled class/tour and to get your rental package if needed.

The Stuga, which is located in front of Rowleys Bay Resort on the east side of the main parking lot, is our headquarters for the weekend. Go there if you have any questions concerning the symposium: updates on classes, weather forecasts, lost and found, first aid, etc. Also, our Rutabaga store is in the Stuga. We'll bring small items and necessities (nose plugs, sunscreen, water bottles, etc) as well as some paddle clothing and paddle gear for purchase, but the selection is limited so it is best to purchase these items ahead of time. Refer to the Gear & Equipment section of this guide for the list of useful items to bring.

The Stuga is open:

Thursday	July 11	4:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday	July 12	7:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday	July 13	7:00am – 9:00pm
Sunday	July 14	7:00am – 3:00pm

Symposium Forms

Please print the two PDF forms (Student Health Information Form and Waiver of Liability), complete them, and turn them in when you check-in at the Stuga. You can find these on the Door County Sea Kayak Symposium website on the [registration](#) page. We require all participants to complete the Student Health Information Form and Waiver of Liability before participating in the Symposium.

We do our best to ensure quality and safety in every aspect of the Symposium, however all recreational activities involve some risk. Although accidents are extremely rare, the Symposium staff cannot be held responsible for illness, injury or damage/loss to personal property.

Your Schedule & Schedule Changes

When you check in at Stuga, you will receive your registration packet with your final schedule of classes and tours. Please feel free to check your schedule (using the link in your initial confirmation email) prior to the symposium, but don't worry about printing it at this time, as there will be a printed copy in your registration packet. Please note that there may be last minutes changes in your schedule due to wind, water conditions or weather. You are also welcome to make changes to your schedule during the weekend based on your needs when the Stuga is open.

Classes & Tours Logistics

After the Welcome & Opening on Thursday night and right after dinner on Friday and Saturday night, we will have **Plan & Prep Meetings** where you'll get together with your instructors to discuss logistics for the next day, including car pooling, boat transportation, meeting times and more. These meetings are strongly recommended – we want to all be on the same page - so please do not miss them. See the weekend [schedule](#) online for times.

Your registration packet includes a Site Map of the event showing where each class and tour will meet so you can get your boat to where it is supposed to be. Note that off-site courses will first meet on-site in a specific pen location and then leave from there. Transportation to and from the off-site location is included in the time listed.

We ask that you be on time, if not 10-15 minutes early, to your class/tour meeting location. This makes departures more timely and efficient. Late arrivals hold up the entire class, so please be respectful of the group by arriving on time. If you are more than 5 minutes late the class or tour will begin without you. We cannot guarantee that you will be able to join a class or tour if you are late in arriving. For your safety, we discourage latecomers from trying to catch up to an already departed tour.

Most classes take place at Rowleys Bay, the home site for the symposium. Some classes and tours launch from locations around Door County. In your packet there will be a map of Door County with driving directions to off-site locations. Off-site programs require either car pooling (smaller groups) or use of our vans and trailers (larger groups), all of which are arranged during the Plan & Prep Meetings under the Big Tent each night. If you are doing an all-day course or tour, please keep in mind you will be off site for the whole day and should bring a lunch.

Several tours begin at Peninsula State Park. A Wisconsin State Park sticker, available for purchase at the park entrances, is required for any vehicle entry to the launch site. Strawberry Island, Tennison to Chambers Island, and Horseshoe Island are the three tours leaving from Peninsula State Park.

Gear & Equipment

What to Wear and What to Bring

Wetsuits or hydroskins are strongly recommended, and may be required for rescue and rolling classes and more advanced Lake Michigan tours, depending on weather and water temperatures. We want you to be warm enough to enjoy the learning and to be safe while doing so.

Please know that tour leaders and instructors reserve the right to deny participation where they believe equipment or clothing are not adequate for water conditions. In addition, tour leaders may deny participation if skills levels are not adequate for the designated tour.

Although the land temperatures can be quite warm, the body loses heat very quickly when wet. It is important that you wear clothing that helps you retain body heat, so come prepared to dress in layers.

Dressing in Layers:

- Layer 1: Merino wool or synthetic base layer
 - Layer 2: Neoprene, hydroskin, fleece or wool
 - Layer 3: Windbreaker, paddle jacket, rain gear, or dry top/pants/suit
 - Extremities: Hat, gloves
 - Feet: Water shoes, neoprene booties or a sandal with a heel strap
- AVOID COTTON CLOTHES - They will not keep you warm when wet.

You may also want a bathing suit, quick dry shorts and a merino wool or synthetic shirt for beginner classes on inland lakes.

Other items to bring:

Water bottle	Nose clips or goggles for rolling and rescues classes
Sunscreen/lip balm	High-energy snack foods like energy bars or gorp
Sun hat or visor	Mesh or duffle bag to hold your gear
Rain Gear	Towel
Sunglasses (with strap)	Insect repellent
Glasses strap	A positive, can-do attitude!

Remember to use your Gear Coupons at Rutabaga ahead of time to get any items you may need!

Personal Boats and Gear

If you have your own boat, that's great! Bring it along and learn in it. We require that all kayaks used in the symposium have a spray skirt, static deck lines, and sealed bulkheads or 2 floatation bags.

Kayaks of 13.5-15ft in length are welcome in Beginner and Basic Skills classes and on Introductory and Beginner level tours.

Skills Challenge classes and Intermediate and Advanced level tours require sea kayaks 15ft or longer. This is because we want to make sure that on these longer tours, in potentially rough conditions, you are able to comfortably and safely keep up with the group. Certain Intermediate tours can have boats shorter than 15ft with prior approval from Amelia - ameliam@rutabaga.com.

Renting a Boat and Gear

If you don't have a boat, we don't want that to hold you back! We can provide a boat, PFD, spray skirt, and paddle to get you out on the water for the weekend. There is a rental fee to use a supplied boat package, which must be arranged in advance. Please contact Tucker to do so at tuckerm@rutabaga.com.

Full Rental packages and Boat & Skirt Only Rental packages will be managed and distributed on-site in the Boat Yard, located in the grassy area across from the Big Tent. We do our best to fit you in a boat that will work best for you, and if you have any issues with your rental boat fit, please check back in at the Boat Yard to see other available options. Please note that we have a limited number of rental boats, so changing boats just because you want to try another one is not always an option.

Vendors

Vendors will be on hand during group meals and in the evenings. Located right next to the Big Tent, our vendors will have numerous products available to try, plus you can ask the experts about their products. Expected vendors include Werner Paddles, Northwest River Supply (NRS), Current Designs, P&H Kayaks, and Wilderness Systems.

Meals

Breakfast - on your own

You are on your own for breakfast each day so please plan accordingly. You may either bring your own, or eat at the Rowleys Bay Restaurant, which is open for breakfast Friday & Saturday 7am - 11:30am and Sunday 7am - 9:45am. (Note: they normally open at 7:30am but are opening early for us the mornings we are there.) If eating breakfast in the restaurant, please get there early enough to enjoy breakfast (and pay for it) with enough time to arrive to your class/tour on time. The restaurant can get quite busy in the morning with symposium participants!

Lunches - on your own (except Sunday)

Friday and Saturday lunches are on your own as well, so plan ahead for this and bring your own lunches, or you can purchase a box lunch on-site at Grandma's Swedish Bakery (Rowleys Bay Restaurant is not open for lunch). If you plan to purchase a box lunch, stop by Grandma's Bakery to order and pick up. Bakery hours are 7am - 3pm daily.

Box Lunch Options:

Option 1: Choice of ham & cheddar, turkey & swiss, or veggie sandwich on white or whole wheat bread.

Option 2: Choice of ham, turkey or veggie wrap.

*Both box lunch options include chips, cookie and fruit juice.

Dinners & Sunday Lunch - included with registration

Friday and Saturday dinners & Sunday lunch are included in the registration fee on the days for which you are registered. Friday night we will enjoy a spaghetti dinner with both meat and meatless sauce. Saturday night dinner will be barbeque chicken and veggie stir-fry with sides. Sunday lunch consists of a tossed garden salad with cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, garbanzo beans, grilled chicken and more. All group meals are served under the Big Tent. Please let us know in advance of any special dietary needs and we will work with you to accommodate your needs.

Lodging & Camping

Hotel accommodations are available at Rowleys Bay Resort (1-800-999-2466) or www.rowleysbayresort.com. Be sure to tell them you're attending the Symposium.

Camping is available less than a half mile from the symposium site at the Wagon Trail Campground (1-920-854-4818) or www.wagontrailcampground.com. Be sure to tell them you're attending the Symposium.

There are many other places to stay on the Door Peninsula, ranging from hike-in campsites to lush bed and breakfasts. For more info on these visit the Door County Chamber of Commerce at www.doorcounty.com.

Helpful Tips

- We have a [Bulletin Board](http://www.paddlers.com/everyonepaddles/bb.asp) feature on our website at www.paddlers.com/everyonepaddles/bb.asp. This can also be found under the Logistics drop down menu online. You can use it to set up a carpool, find someone to share lodging or a campsite, or other logistical requests. Your messages will be visible to all, but your email will remain hidden. When someone replies, our Rutabaga server will connect the two of you. We hope it is helpful in your planning!

- The better prepared you are, the better your experience! Included in this email are [DCSKS Coupons](#) good for 15% accessory discounts on gear and equipment to help you prepare for a wonderful weekend on the water - and beyond! The coupons are each good for a one-time purchase and must be used by July 7, 2019.
- Rutabaga brings several [boat carts and wheels](#) for Symposium participants to use to move their boat around the symposium grounds. These live in the Boat Yard and you may borrow one to move your boat and then please return it immediately when you are finished for others to use.
- The tip of Door County receives cell signals from both Wisconsin (CST) and from the UP of Michigan (EST), so your phone may switch between the two time zones and this can get quite confusing! Once up there, we suggest you set your phone to Central Standard Time in your phone's settings (disabling the auto-set time zone feature).
- One thing folks enjoy about DCSKS is the sense of community that develops over a few days. From sunrise yoga and brown bag lunch seminars, to evening programs and campfires, our on-land activities help round out the weekend as you get to know your fellow paddlers. Check the [schedule](#) online for more information.

Weather

Door County is a wonderful place to escape the summer heat of more landlocked areas of the upper Midwest. Be prepared for cooler weather and some wind since we'll be on the shore of one of the largest bodies of water in the world, Lake Michigan.

Generally, July temperatures in Door County range from 63 degrees in the morning to 82 degrees in the afternoon, with nighttime lows in the low 60s. Click [here](#) for the current NOAA forecast for Ephraim, WI, a nearby town. Click [here](#) for the NOAA Weather - Marine Forecast.

Please note that the Symposium will not be cancelled, nor will refunds be given due to weather. In the event of a thunderstorm, indoor presentations and discussions will take place. Classes and tours will be held in the rain, so bring appropriate rain gear or paddling jackets.

Weather Plan B

Any changes to the schedule due to weather will be posted in the Stuga. In the event of storms or other weather related risks we may have to cancel all on water classes. In that case we will substitute in a selection of land-based learning experiences. Safety is #1!

Contact Numbers

Rutabaga Paddlesports in Madison	608-223-9300
Rowleys Bay Resort	888-559-2466
Rowleys Bay Resort EMERGENCY	920-854-2385 ext. 805
Wagon Trail Campground	920-854-4818

Thank You!

Thank you again for participating in the Door County Sea Kayak Symposium. Please note the Door County Sea Kayak Symposium staff will be departing from Madison after work on Tuesday July 9, so if you wish to make schedule changes after that, please plan to do so once you check in.

We can't wait to see you real soon!

Happy Paddling,

The Rutabaga Family