

# NZOIA™ Kayak Leader Scope and Syllabus

## Scope

### Kayak Leader Profile

The NZOIA Kayak Leader can:

- Plan and prepare introductory kayaking experiences.
- Instruct groups in the kayaking skills required for a positive introductory experience.
- Lead and manage groups kayaking on 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 and about flora and fauna.
- Role model accepted codes of environmental practice.

The NZOIA Kayak 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 Kayak Leader can lead kayaking activity on flat or sheltered water, including 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 Kayak Leader:

- Open sea.
- Crossing of large lakes or sounds.
- Grade 1 sections of rivers.

## Equipment

The Kayak Leader can lead participants using sit on tops, closed and open deck kayaks.

## Progressing to Instructor level qualifications

As the Kayak 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 Kayak Instructor Level 1 pre-requisites.
- Attending a River Safety course.
- Being able to roll.
- Attending an NZOIA Instructor Level 1 training course.
- Working with a NZOIA Kayak Instructor Level 1 or 2.

## Pre-requisites

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

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

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

## Revalidation

The NZOIA Kayak 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 kayaking gear and equipment.
2. Demonstrate effective personal paddling skills on flat or slow moving water.
3. Demonstrate effective rescue skills on flat or slow moving water.

## The Environment

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

## Group Management and Leadership

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

## Instruction

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