

Kayaking Merit Badge Day – Tuesday, May 26th/ Monday, June 22nd/ Monday, August 3rd

Event Overview

Scouts will complete the full Kayaking Merit Badge through a combination of land-based instruction and on-water skill stations. Each scout receives a RIVERSPORT Day Pass, and a classic picnic lunch, allowing them to enjoy adventures before or after their scheduled clinic block.

There are 3 groups of 18 scouts, each completing a 2-hour clinic.

Event Flow

Each 2-hour clinic rotates 18 scouts through all three stations in groups of 6 at each station. While not in their clinic block, scouts may enjoy park adventures using their day passes. Scouts should arrive 30 minutes before their badge clinic reservation. Lunch is served at 11am for all 3 groups of 18 scouts participating that day.

Daily Schedule

Group 1 - 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Merit Badge Clinic

Lunch (All Groups) - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Classic Picnic Lunch

Group 2 - 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Merit Badge Clinic

Group 3 - 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Merit Badge Clinic

◆ Station 1: Land Station – Kayak Safety, Equipment & Knowledge

Location: River Pavilion

Scouts will complete all land-based knowledge requirements:

Life Jacket & Safety Gear

- Review kayak-appropriate life jackets
- Demonstrate how to select and correctly fit a PFD
- Review safety equipment: whistle, extra paddle, sponge, bilge pump, flotation bags, throw bag

Kayak Parts & Boat Design

- Identify major parts of a kayak
- Compare recreational vs. whitewater vs. sea/touring designs
- Discuss length, width, stability, and rocker
- Learn proper care, maintenance, and storage

Paddle Knowledge

- Correct methods for using a kayak paddle
- Identify paddle parts
- Review paddle care and maintenance

◆ Station 2: River Station – Solo Paddling Skills & Maneuvers

Location: Youth Pavilion Dock → River

Stroke Skills

- Forward stroke
- Backstroke
- Forward sweep
- Reverse sweep
- Draw stroke
- Stern draw

Maneuvering & Control

- Paddle a straight line (15–20 boat lengths)
- Pivot 180° right and left within two boat lengths
- Move abeam 10 ft right and left
- Stop the kayak within one boat length
- Turn 90° right and left while moving forward
- Reverse paddle 3–4 boat lengths
- Navigate a buoyed Figure-8 course

◆ Station 3: Rescue & Safety Skills (Upper Pond)

Location: Upper Pond (Controlled Water Area)

Scouts will complete all capsize and rescue-based requirements:

- Safely capsize and perform a wet exit
- Reenter the kayak with buddy boat assistance
- Perform a kayak-over-kayak rescue
- Demonstrate the HELP position
- Capsize, then swim kayak and paddle to shore, and empty water with assistance if needed

Rotation Schedule (3 Groups, 3 Stations)

Group Size:

- 18 Scouts per group
- Split into 3 groups of 6 at each station.

Station Timing:

- 30 minutes at each station
 - 10-minute transition window
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MORNING

Group 1 (9:00 AM – 11:00 AM)

Timing

- 9:00–9:30 - Station 1
 - 9:30–9:40 - Transition
 - 9:40–10:10 - Station 2
 - 10:10–10:20 - Transition
 - 10:20–10:50 - Station 3
 - 10:50–11:00 - Wrap-up / Move to lunch
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LUNCH BREAK

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Classic Picnic Lunch at the River Pavilion.

MIDDAY

Group 2 (12:00 PM – 2:00 PM)

Timing

- 12:00–12:30 - Station 1
 - 12:30–12:40 - Transition
 - 12:40–1:10 - Station 2
 - 1:10–1:20 - Transition
 - 1:20–1:50 - Station 3
 - 1:50–2:00 - Wrap-up
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AFTERNOON

Group 3 (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Timing

- 2:00–2:30 - Station 1
- 2:30–2:40 - Transition
- 2:40–3:10 - Station 2
- 3:10–3:20 - Transition
- 3:20–3:50 - Station 3
- 3:50–4:00 - Wrap-up