

Canoe Director

Overview

Since the day camp was founded in 1936 with Unca Lou and Omer paddling up to the shore of South Tea, canoeing has held a place in the hearts of all Tamakwans. Canoeing is an activity, a sport, and most definitely, an art. Campers and staff of all ages have the ability to master this craft and nothing is quite as peaceful as participating in a silent paddle on a misty morning lake or as beautiful as a paddle under a starry sky at night.

Daily Tasks

At the start and end of each day, make sure the docks are in order and free of clutter, that the canoes are placed properly on the docks and that they are not one on top of each other. We take great pride in our canoes and need to help preserve them against any damage or unnecessary wear and tear. Paddles should be racked according to size so that kids can easily find appropriate paddles.

Programming

Canoeing doesn't require major strength so even small kids can manoeuvre a canoe. The Canoe dock has a very open come one, come all philosophy when it comes to individual choice! By having a few campers of each level, it is easier to split the group into smaller groups and each of the canoe staff (regardless of their level) will have something to do!

When splitting the periods into smaller groups, Focus each group around specific levels - beginners, intermediate and advanced (voyageur class). Beginner and Intermediate classes should first focus on technical skills and then progress to award completion. Keep each day fresh by incorporating award work along with fun and challenging games such as gun-whaling or canoe rolling. Switch things up from time to time by working inside and outside of canoe bay, go for a long paddle out on the lake in tandem as well as solo or put together a slalom course inside the bay.

Canoeing is a popular activity and often enjoyed outside of the regular five activity periods. The docks should be open every Friday night for hobby hubs and during several twilight periods per week.

Canoeing is also one of the three activities used for the camper and staff triathlons. These usually take place 1-2 times per session. Please discuss this event with the program director at the beginning of the summer so you can be prepared and spend some time teaching basic skills to any participants.

Awards

As outlined in your award sheet, there are several different canoe awards; however, they all lead up to the highest and most prestigious award, the Voyageur Canoeist Award. This award can often take years of practice with hours of dedicated work. The voyageur test is taken during one the last days of camp and is judged by previous campers and/or staff who have earned this award. Canoeist must master a combination of moves that demonstrates their

ability to control a canoe with grace and ease. Whether or not a camper and/or staff member receives their Voyageur is held a secret until the very last night of camp.

We also recommend holding several Voyageur class cookouts throughout the summer – they are a great way to bond with each other and can provide a lot of insight for canoeists. Every Thursday has been the trend throughout the last few years. It works with scheduling, try to designate voyageur individual choice special periods.

Staff

The canoe docks are always a popular choice for many staff. You are on the water all day and have the opportunity to work one on one with kids or in a larger group setting. Several staff are assigned to canoeing for the summer and ideally, multiple staff will have their voyageur award to properly instruct at that level.

As every camper and counsellor is required to go on a canoe trip, the canoe Director and/or the canoe staff may be asked to help teach new counsellors how to properly stern a canoe. This should typically be done during free play times.

Safety

While we always encourage campers and staff to have fun at everything they do, safety is paramount. Always ensure campers are being supervised at all times and that no one accidentally drifts off into secluded areas.

- Count all canoes on the lake at all times and when going outside of canoe bay, make sure all canoes stay together and that an adequate amount of staff are included for the paddle.
- Lifejackets are to be worn by all staff and campers outside canoe bay. JT's are to wear lifejackets in canoe bay at all times
- Beaver Dock tower must have a lifeguard on windy days or when several canoes are out on the water
- During gun-whaling or air pockets, 2 staff are in a canoe life guarding and participants are wearing lifejackets. There is no swimming in canoe bay.
- Please also take care when removing canoes in and out of the water as they can be heavy and should not be lifted alone by any younger campers.

Summary

We know this is a lot of information. We do not expect you to memorize all of it. We do expect you to read it, take notes, and ask questions! We hope you are as excited as we are to have you with us on South Tea!

CANOEING RULES

Rules for Kids

- Campers may use a canoe only with the permission of a staff member in charge
- Shoes may not be worn in canoes
- There must be a life jacket for every person in every canoe
- Campers must wear fastened lifejackets outside of Canoe Bay (and when gun whaling and tipping within Canoe Bay)
- All JTs must always wear a life jacket (even in canoe bay)
- Campers may tip in Canoe Bay ONLY with a staff member's permission
- There is no running on the Canoe Dock
- This is not a swim area
- Please be sure to rack your canoe and paddle when you're finished
- Please get help putting canoes in and taking them out of the water

Canoe Rules for Staffing the Dock

- When campers are dumping, two staff guards must be watching canoes/campers, up to 8 at a time
- Count all canoes on the lake at all times and when going outside of canoe bay, make sure all canoes stay together and that an adequate amount of staff are included for the paddle.
- Beaver Dock tower must have a lifeguard on windy days or when several canoes are out on the water
- During gun whaling or air pockets, 2 staff are in a canoe life guarding and participants are wearing lifejackets. There is no swimming in canoe bay.
Please also take care when removing canoes in and out of the water as they can be heavy and should not be lifted alone by any small children.