

**AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Canoe Committee  
Sea Kayak Rating Form**

**To the Observer:**

Please consider the following criteria when evaluating a candidate:

***Level 1--Novice Paddler***

In protected water conditions, demonstrates competence in: all basic strokes including forward, reverse, sweep, draw, high & low braces; wet exit; assisted rescue as both rescuer and victim (T-rescue) and self-rescue (paddle float); safe group paddling (e.g. on-water signals, rafting etc.). Also, demonstrates knowledge of safety issues related to paddling including weather, tides & currents, marine hazards, hypothermia, etc. Can paddle continuously at a moderate pace for one hour and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for up to two hours without a shore break.

***Level 2--Intermediate Paddler***

In protected water conditions, in addition to Level 1 skills, demonstrates competence in: basic strokes with edging; advanced strokes with edging including bow rudder, low brace turn, draw-on-the-move and hanging draw; high and low sculling for support and sculling draw; stern rudder; Eskimo rescue (bow presentation). Demonstrates good progress toward an Eskimo roll. Also demonstrates knowledge of basic on-water navigation including map/chart reading and compass use. Can paddle continuously at a moderately brisk pace for 1½ hours and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for up to three hours without a shore break.

***Level 3--Open Water Paddler***

In open water conditions, demonstrates competence in: all Level 1 and 2 skills; Eskimo rescue (paddle shaft presentation); Eskimo roll from a non-set up position; towing; navigation including nautical chart interpretation, plotting and following bearings, calculating distances and speeds, and using ranges. Also demonstrates knowledge of open water hazards. Can paddle continuously at a brisk pace for 1½ hours and if necessary can remain reasonably comfortable in a kayak for three or more hours without a shore break.

By completing this form you are certifying that you have personally observed the candidate complete all of the requirements of the class. Merely “surviving” a trip does not mean that the paddler has achieved the rating. Observations on multiple dates and waterways may be combined. A Level 2 or 3 recommendation requires that the paddler be observed in conditions near the upper end of Level 2 or 3 respectively.

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<b>Paddler's Name</b>	<b>Current Rating</b>

<b>Observer's Name</b>	<b>Current Rating</b>

<b>Waterway(s) Paddled</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>

<b>Conditions</b>

<b>Recommended Rating</b>

<b>Additional Comments</b>

Please return this form to the Canoe/Kayak Committee Chair (canoekayak@amc-ny.org) or to the Ratings Chair, Michelle Sholtis, 267 Burns St, Forest Hills, NY 11375 (canoekayak.ratings@amc-ny.org)