



ACA Instructor Certification What Level is right for me?

The American Canoe Association offers Instructor Certifications in:
Adaptive Paddling, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting and Safety & Rescue.

Within each of the on-water disciplines, various levels are available, suited to the venue of the courses. Detailed below are the levels of certification along with the venues associated and the typical length of the certification process.

Please note, to achieve Instructor Certification you must be able to demonstrate on-water skills one level above your level of certification.

<i>River Canoeing</i>			
Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1: Introduction to Canoeing	Flatwater	1-2 Days	1 Day
Level 2: Essentials of Canoeing	Gently moving water (below Class I)	2 Days	1-2 Days
Level 3: Moving Water Canoeing	Class I Rivers	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Whitewater Canoeing	Class II Rivers	3 Days	2 Days
Level 5: Adv. Whitewater Canoeing	Class III+ Rivers	n/a*	2-3 Days
<i>* To be eligible for Level 5 Instructor Certification, one must be an active Level 4 Instructor for a minimum of 2 years.</i>			

<i>Canoe Touring / Freestyle Canoeing</i>			
Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1: Introduction to Canoeing	Flatwater	1-2 Days	1 Day
Level 2: Essentials of Canoe Touring	Gently moving water (below Class I)	2 Days	1-2 Days
Level 3: Freestyle Canoeing	Flatwater	2 Days	2 Days



Coastal Kayaking

Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1: Introduction to Kayaking	Flatwater (small inland lakes, pools, ect)	1-2 Days	1 Day
Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring	Flat-water (protected bays—lakes/oceans)	2 Days	1-2 Days
Level 3: Basic Coastal Kayaking	Up to 1/2 mile from shore / waves <1' / wind <10 knots	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Open Water Coastal Kayaking	Up to 1 mile from shore / waves <2' / wind <15 knots	3 Days	2 Days
Level 5: Adv. Open Water Coastal Kayaking	Up to 1 mile from shore / waves <4' / wind <20 knots	n/a*	2-3 Days

** To be eligible for Level 5 Instructor Certification,
one must be an active Level 4 Instructor for a minimum of 2 years.*

River Kayaking

Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1: Introduction to Kayaking	Flatwater	1-2 Days	1 Day
Level 2: Essentials of River Kayaking	Gently moving water (below Class I)	2 Days	1-2 Days
Level 3: Basic River Kayaking	Class I Rivers	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Whitewater Kayaking	Class II Rivers	3 Days	2 Days
Level 5: Adv. Whitewater Kayaking	Class III+ Rivers	n/a*	2-3 Days

** To be eligible for Level 5 Instructor Certification,
one must be an active Level 4 Instructor for a minimum of 2 years.*

Surf Kayaking

Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Level 2: Sit-On-Top Surf Kayaking	Ocean beach / small surf (1'-2') <10 knots off shore and flatwater.	2 Days	1-2 Days
Level 3: Basic Surf Kayaking	Ocean beach / small surf (1'-3') <10 knots off shore and flatwater.	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Surf Kayaking	Ocean beach / small surf (1'-3') <15 knots off shore and flatwater.	3 Days	2 Days



Safety and Rescue			
Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Level 2:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Level 3: Essentials of River Safety & Rescue	Class I Rivers	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Swiftwater Rescue	Class II Rivers	3 Days	2 Days
Level 5: Adv. Swiftwater Rescue	Class III+	n/a*	2-3 Days
* To be eligible for Level 5 Instructor Certification, one must be an active Level 4 Instructor for a minimum of 2 years.			

Rafting			
Level	Teaching Venue	IDW	ICE
Level 1:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Level 2:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Level 3: Moving Water Rafting	Class I Rivers	2 Days	2 Days
Level 4: Whitewater Rafting	Class II Rivers	3 Days	2 Days
Level 5:	n/a	n/a	n/a

Adaptive Paddling		
Level	Teaching Venue	APW
Adaptive Paddling Endorsement	Classroom & flatwater	The Adaptive Paddling Endorsement is available through the four-day Adaptive Paddling Workshop.
Adaptive Paddling Workshop Facilitator	Classroom & flatwater	The Adaptive Paddling Workshop Facilitator and Equipment Instructor certifications are available through co-operative training with current AP Instructor Trainers & Educators (see AP Instructor specifics on the web)
Adaptive Paddling Equipment Instructor	Classroom & flatwater	