

## **For ALL Festival Participants: Mandatory Equipment and Skill Levels**

Please note that the club trips and Festival are organized by volunteers and not commercially guided. This means that **you as participant have to take full responsibility for your actions and decisions.**

It is *your responsibility* to bring the mandatory equipment (see below).

It is also *your responsibility* to choose trips within your abilities. The trip organizer will help you to assess your skills; but it will be your own decision to run or portage certain rapids, and to judge your performance on the river. If you are unsure of any aspect, it is your responsibility to seek information.

### **Mandatory equipment**

The following items are mandatory (according to Canadian Coast Guard Regulations):

- Seaworthy boat with floatation bags
- An adequate paddle
- Personal floatation device (PFD)
- Signaling device (whistle)
- A bailing device (sponge?) and
- A floating rope of at least 15 meter length (throw rope).

In addition to the above items, the VKC requires you to have (in good working order):

- A sprayskirt,
- A helmet,
- Float bags in your boat and
- Appropriate thermal protection clothing.

Additionally useful items are spare paddle, spare warm clothing, rescue and first aid kit (make sure there are a few of each in your group).

Each guided run will commence with a short safety meeting (review river signals, location of possible walk-outs, special hazards).

The VKC requires all participants to sign a waiver and refrain from paddling under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Information for first aid, emergency contacts and communication protocols will be available at the Festival Headquarters (Tamihi Campground) and from the shuttle drivers.

\*\*\* Shuttles will be equipped with Radios, however, reception may be limited.

## Skill Levels

**Beginner**: has pool experience, knows how to put on a spray skirt, how to wet exit and where bow and stern are on a kayak. *No runs on the Chilliwack River*, but beginners can get wet in Cultus Lake.

**Novice**: some experience on moving water. Has an idea what a roll is and manages to do some. Can maneuver the boat. **Chilliwack from Pointe Vista down. Class II (with occasional class III drops)**. Other rivers on which novices should feel OK are the lower Seymour, lower Mamquam, and lower Cheakamus (Paradise Valley).

**Intermediate**: Roll works most times. Boat moves usually where you want it. Class III (occasional class IV drops). Comfortable on **Chilliwack (Slesse down)**, Capilano, Chehalis, Cheakamus (Daisy Lake down).

**Advanced**: 99% roll. Very good boat control. Rivers: Chilliwack Canyon, Lynn, Nahatlach Canyon. Class III+ to IV-.

**Experts**: Almost a 100% roll. Because you don't want to swim what you paddle. Sorry, no club trips for you girls and guys. But you are welcome on our easier runs. We always need help! ***Runs on class 4+ and above are NOT part of the official Festival.*** Shuttling and paddling any such runs is done ***ON YOUR OWN organization and RISK.***