

Kayak the Creek - Safety Instructions and Basic Rules - 2020

As with all recreational activities, there is always the possibility of injury or death. Always use common sense and follow all safety rules at all times.

Kayak the Creek (KTC) reserves the right to cancel rentals if the weather conditions are dangerous or forecasting to be so. Additionally, KTC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule rentals if the flow rate of the creek is too high, creating dangerous conditions.

The ideal flow rate for Minnehaha Creek is between 75 and 150 cubic feet per minute of discharge from Gray's Bay Dam.* However, you can still have a very enjoyable trip on many sections of the creek when the flow is much lower than 75 cfm**. You cannot kayak on the creek when the power is *higher* than 150 cfm for safety reasons. You can check the current flow rate here: <https://www.minnehahacreek.org/water-levels-lake-minnetonka-and-grays-bay-dam>

What to wear:

You may get wet. A bathing suit for guys and a suit covered by a comfortable pair of shorts for women is recommended. Sunblock, sunglasses and a hat are good choices.

You MUST wear shoes that can get wet, have a bit of traction and will not fall off.

Sport sandals like Keens, Chatos, or similar are good choices. You will need to step into and walk in the creek and don't want to ruin or lose your shoes.

What to bring:

Have a towel in your car at the pick up spot to sit on.

At your own risk, one person in your party must bring a phone to capture to track your progress via GPS mapping so KTC knows when to pick you up or where to find you in the unlikely event you have a problem

Water and (optional) a granola bar or other easy to eat snack. Carabiners are provided to secure water bottles.

Give your keys to the KTC staff or bring them along, you will be provided a dry box.

Note: Kayaks all have storage compartments, but they are NOT waterproof. You will be provided with a dry bag or box .

Rules of the rental:

- Never mix alcohol or drugs with boating.
(You CAN bring snacks and beverages - take all trash with you. No littering.)
- Never exceed the weight capacity of your boat and always check your equipment for wear and tear before you paddle. The weight capacity of most boats is 250 lbs. If you think this will be an issue, please talk to the KTC staff ahead of your trip.
- **Wear your provided life jacket.**
- Never stand (with one foot or both) in your kayak.
- Never leave your kayak or paddle without securing it on shore. It will leave you.
- One person per kayak. No exceptions.

Rules of the rental, continued:

- Minors must be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by a parent or guardian. There must be a one adult to one minor ratio for those under 14 years old. Recommended to have one adult for every two minors over 14 years old.
- No one under the age of 18 can be unaccompanied by an adult.
- Use common sense when renting and using the kayaks. Treat them as if you own them - you will be financially responsible for damage and lost items.

Covid Protocols:

Kayak the Creek's responsibility:

- KTC will sanitize all items that get touched by renters (paddles, handles, kayaks, storage bags and lifejackets) between each rental.
- KTC staff will stay 6 feet away from clients and will wear a mask when appropriate.
- KTC staff will no longer be able to stabilize the kayak for clients as they enter or exit the water - so client must be physically able to do this independently.
- All creekside instruction will be given to clients while 6 feet or more apart.
- Hand sanitizer will be used liberally.
- Clients from different rental parties will be asked to stay apart and will have staggered start times.

Renter's responsibility:

- Do not rent from KTC if you are ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill. If this happens between the time you reserve your kayaks and your rental date, you will be allowed to reschedule with no penalty.
- Stay 6 feet or more back from KTC staff and other renters when entering or exiting the creek.
- Keep your rental group distant from other rental groups.

Dogs:

KTC is a dog-friendly company, but it is not recommended on Minnehaha Creek. The quick moving water, intermittent rapids and unexpected obstacles make kayaking with a dog dangerous for both the paddler and the dog.

Instruction:

- You will be given basic instructions for paddling, turning and getting in and out of your kayak when you arrive.

Other:

- Prior to your trip, KTC will contact you to determine which section of the creek you will be paddling. Your trip will be between 2.5-3 hours.
- KTC cannot provide transportation at this time. You will need to arrange to have a car left behind at the exit point, have a friend or family member pick you up or call an Uber or Lyft** to bring you back to the in point.
- As a brand new business, KTC appreciates any and all word of mouth advertising you can provide. If you enjoyed yourself, please tell others! Come back soon to see another section of the creek.

Notes:

** Dam discharge rates can vary everyday, especially after a rain.*

*** There may be small sections where you have to walk and pull your kayak, but we have enjoyably kayaked the creek when the flow rate was 25 cfm.*

**** Though the kayak trip will be several hours, the actual road distance traveled is not that far and a Lyft or Uber ride back to the beginning won't be very expensive. Sorry for the inconvenience - this is a brand new, small business and commercial "livery/transportation" insurance is just too expensive for now.*