



Kayak the Creek - Safety Instructions and Basic Rules - 2023

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 or reschedule rentals in the following conditions:

- if the weather conditions are dangerous or forecasting to be so (storms/wind).
- In high wind conditions
- if the flow rate of the creek is too high, creating dangerous conditions or too low creating unsuitable paddling 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 flow 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>

When the water is 100 or above, the water runs fast with many tight turns and areas of rapids. These situations are fun and exhilarating for many, but are often difficult for the younger teens and older adult renters. It is quite common when the water is over 100 for kayakers to overturn at least once. You must be able to flip over your kayak, empty it of water and get yourself back inside the boat on your own with little to no shoreline access. You may be standing in waist deep moving water when this happens. If you are scheduled at a time where the water levels are higher and you are not sure if it is right for you, please contact Tamara at KayaktheCreek@gmail.com to discuss rescheduling. At these times KTC will adjust the minimum age to 14.

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 suggested.

You MUST wear shoes that can get wet, have a bit of traction and will not fall off. Sport sandals like Keens, Chacos, 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. NO FLIP FLOPS.

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. No Alcohol allowed.** (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.
- 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.**

Dogs:

Dogs are not allowed when renting with KTC. 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:

- Your paddling time will be between 2-3 hours with an additional 30 minutes at the beginning and end at the landings. Time varies based on water flow and paddling speed.
- KTC does not 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 newer 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.*