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canoe & kayak

- sales
- accessories
- river trips
- trailers
- repairs
- lessons

PA Fish and Boat Commission Regulations **Applicable to Non-Powered Canoes and Kayaks**

Registration

Non-powered boats are not required to be registered in the State of Pennsylvania. (Canoes using either electric or gasoline motors are subject to registration requirements; contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission for details.) However, in order to use Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) boat ramps & surrounding property, or DCNR (State Park) waterways, you must do one of the following:

- 1) Register your boat with the PFBC. Registration cost is \$18 for 2 years (plus any processing fees charged by the issuing agent.) Canoes are required to display both the 3" x 3" registration stickers and the registration number assigned to the boat. Kayaks are required to display only the stickers. In both cases, the actual registration card must be carried with the boat as well. PFBC registration also covers use of State Park waterways, and in most cases fulfills registration requirements for other states you may paddle in. Registration can be done through the PFBC office in Harrisburg, PA (717 705-7940, www.fish.state.pa.us), through most county courthouses, or through any PFBC certified registration issuing agent. You will need a copy of your sales receipt showing that you paid sales tax, for either new or used boats purchased through a dealer. A Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin (MCO) is not required for non-powered craft with a retail value of less than \$2000. Contact the PFBC for registration information concerning used boats purchased from a private individual, those purchased from out of state, or those that have been owned for a length of time and no longer have paperwork available.
- 2) Purchase a PFBC Use Permit, available from the same sources listed in #1 above. This permit does not require a registration number to be displayed, simply the use permit decals. Cost is \$10 for one year or \$18 for two years (plus any agent fee charged) and covers the use of State Park (DCNR) waterways as well. No proof of ownership or title is needed. The PFBC Use Permit is valid January 1 – December 1.
- 3) Purchase a State Park (DCNR) Launch Permit, available from any State Park office or the DCNR Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA (717 787-2869.) Cost is \$10 for one year, or \$18 for two years, and covers the use of all State Park land and waters, as well as PFBC boat ramps and surrounding property. The DCNR Launch Permit is valid April 1 to March 31.

Titling

Titling is not required for non powered canoes or kayaks. (Contact the PFBC, information listed above, for titling regulations as applied to powered canoes.)

Other PA Fish & Boat Commission Regulations

PFD's: Every person (operator or passenger) in a canoe or kayak must have in the boat, readily accessible, a Coast Guard approved wearable type I, II, III or suitable type V PFD (life vest) in a size appropriate for that person (Children: under 30 lbs, 30-50 lbs., 50-90 lbs.; Adult; over 90 lbs; sized or universal fit.) Children 12 years or under and non-swimmers are required to wear their PFD's. (A "throwable device" or type IV cushion is not required in a canoe or kayak regardless of the length of the boat.) It is also not acceptable as a substitute for a PFD.) NOTE: BEGINNING IN 2012, FROM NOVEMBER 1 UNTIL MIDNIGHT APRIL 30 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR, ALL PERSONS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A COAST GUARD APPROVED TYPE I, II, III or V PFD WHILE UNDERWAY OR AT ANCHOR ON BOATS LESS THAN 16 FEET IN LENGTH OR ANY CANOE OR KAYAK.

Lights: Any non-powered canoe or kayak on the water prior to legal dawn or after legal dusk must have on board a hand-held white light, which is to be turned on and held overhead if approached by another watercraft, in time to avoid a collision. (Motorized canoes must follow motorboat requirements – call the PFBC for details.) When anchored in a non-anchorage area prior to legal dawn or after legal dusk, an all-round (360°) anchor light must be displayed.

Whistles: Non-powered boats are required to carry a whistle or other mechanical sound-producing device.

Capacity Plate: Canoes and kayaks, motorized or non-powered, are exempt from capacity plate requirements in the State of Pennsylvania.

Alcohol: Alcohol is prohibited on both land and water at all PA State Parks, and on PFBC property. In addition, it is illegal to operate any watercraft (including canoes & kayaks, motorized or non-powered) while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Fines of up to \$7500, 2 years in jail, and loss of boating privileges for up to 1 year can be imposed if convicted.

(5/9/07)