

# Let's Go Kayaking



## Recreational Sit On Top Kayak

**Pros:** Most stable; easy to get on and get off; no feeling of confinement; boat is self bailing

**Cons:** Heavy to handle; minimal dry storage; paddler may get wet; limited to warm water use

**Uses:** Flat waters; beaches; slower rivers; fishing



## Recreational Sit Inside Kayak

**Pros:** One size fits many; larger cockpits than touring kayaks; wider kayaks are more stable; paddler stays drier than with sit on top

**Cons:** Harder to enter and exit than sit on top; tends to sink if takes on water

**Uses:** Flat waters; slow moving rivers



## Touring Sea Kayak

**Pros:** Watertight bulkheads create dry storage and add buoyancy; narrower and longer; more responsive and faster; safety deck lines

**Cons:** Less stable than a recreational kayak

**Uses:** Suitable for "Big Water" (Lake Michigan)

**Safety:** Paddler should take incident and rescue training

Northwest Indiana Paddling Association is a proud partner of

**URBAN WATERS**





[www.NWIPA.org](http://www.NWIPA.org)

## Let's Paddle Safely

Kayaking can be an enjoyable experience providing it is done with safety in mind.

- ***Always wear fully secured personal flotation device (PFD)*** while on the water
- ***Assess the "risk"*** before each paddle adventure for the weather, the water and your skill level
- ***Avoid conditions and situations beyond your training and abilities***
- ***Use an appropriate kayak*** for the water conditions
- ***Dress for water temperature and immersion***
- ***Paddle with others*** as a team or a group
- ***Get training*** to handle an incident and self rescue
- ***Carry appropriate safety equipment***
- ***Help care for the water*** by disposing of all waste properly and leaving the water and launch site better than you found it

