

## **Terms and Conditions for Use of Waterfront, Swimming & Boating Equipment**

Girl Scouts of Maine, 138 Gannett Dr, South Portland, ME 04116-9421  
(207) 772-1177 Fax (207) 874-2646 Toll free 1-888-922-4763

Rental group agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Equipment is reserved and paid for in advance.
2. Certified leaders are required for all listed activities. Groups are responsible to secure their own certified instructors.
3. Proof of certification for the leader of each activity must be submitted at least 8 weeks in advance of the rental. Copies of **current** certificates must be provided:
  - a. **Swimming:** Certified Lifeguard required.(ST12.3)
  - b. **Boating:** Certified lifeguard OR Small craft/Boating Safety (or higher) certification required
4. Certifications and/or documented experience **must be approved** by the Outdoor Program Department and use of equipment can be denied if supervision is deemed insufficient.
5. *GSUSA Safety Activity Checkpoints* must be followed for all activities listed, and appropriate safety equipment must be used.
6. Group agrees to follow GSME Waterfront and Boating Rules below (and a copy is provided at rental agreement checkout).
7. GSME agrees to provide the following equipment:
  - **Swimming:** Lifeguard safety tubes, backboard
  - **Boating:** canoes, kayaks, paddles, life jackets. There is no boating or swimming at Scelkit.
8. Groups are responsible for loss or damage to equipment beyond normal wear and tear, and must report any loss or damage in the post-rental report.
9. GSME may *sometimes* be able to assist in finding a volunteer or staff person. If your group hires a GSME staff person there is a \$125 fee for any council-provided Lifeguard or boating safety instructor.

**IF USING SWIMMING OR BOATING EQUIPMENT, RENTAL GROUP AGREES TO FOLLOW THESE SPECIFIC WATERFRONT AND BOATING RULES:**

### **SAFETY/EMERGENCYPROCEDURES** (PD 7)

Be aware that our aquatic areas pose certain risks, such as potentially large rocks & swim line anchors in the swimming area and deep water (60-80 feet in depth in some places). Please read and abide by the following rules and regulations to maintain safe use of the camps' aquatic areas. These rules should be followed by ALL participants, minor and adult, while using the site. In case of an emergency, a cell phone should be available near the waterfront.

**For emergencies dial 911.**

## **GENERAL WATERFRONT RULES- Applies to swimming and boating activities**

1. A certified lifeguard must be present for all activities at the waterfront, including all adult swimming. There are NO exceptions!
2. A person certified in First Aid/CPR/AED is present at each separate aquatic location and **your group provides an easily available first aid kit.**
3. When girls are wading in water more than knee-deep, an adult with American Red Cross Basic Water Rescue certification or with documented experience in basic water rescue must be present. A **ratio** of one watcher to ten girls must be maintained. (ST 12.3)
4. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is NOT permitted on the site. Anyone appearing to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will be immediately reported to the authorities.
5. Swimming area is restricted to 50 participants at any given time, dependent on appropriate Lifeguard coverage.(ST 42.2)
6. **Not allowed in the swimming area or beach:**
  - a. Bottles, glass, and sharp objects.
  - b. Electrical appliances, such as radios or cell phones.
  - c. No running or horseplay at any time.

## **SWIMMING RULES**

1. Qualifications and ratios for certified lifeguards and watchers must meet current *Safety Activity Checkpoints* guidelines (for Girl Scout groups) and GSME requirements.
2. When on duty, lifeguards and watchers are stationed at separate posts and stay out of water except in emergencies.
3. Use a check-in/check-out system to indicate which swimmers are in the water, and to confirm that all swimmers have exited at the end of the swimming period.
4. Conduct a buddy check approximately every 15 minutes to account for all swimmers.
5. Swimmers are limited to shallow water until approved for deep water swimming. PFDs may be worn by non-swimmers.
6. The length of a swim period is determined by the swimmer's condition and comfort, weather conditions, and water temperature. Generally, 30-45 minute swim periods are sufficient.
7. Swimming is only allowed during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset).
8. Weather and water conditions must be suitable for swimming. No swimming In the event of thunder or poor visibility.
9. Rental groups may not conduct swim lessons.

### **The following instructions are given to all swimmers:**

- No diving or jumping from docks
- All swimmers must swim with a buddy
- Participants do not swim immediately after eating, when overheated, or when tired.

- All swimmers should practice using personal flotation devices (PFDs) and other rescue equipment.

**The following basic rescue equipment must be immediately available at all times:**

- Reaching pole (approximately 12 feet long)
- Ring buoy or throw bag with firmly attached line (approximately 30 feet long)
- Rescue tubes
- Backboard
- First aid kit – your group provides.

**SMALL CRAFT RULES- CANOES & KAYAKS**

1. Qualifications and ratios for certified boating instructors and guards must meet current *Safety Activity Checkpoint* guidelines (for Girl Scout groups) and GSME requirements.
2. Instructions in boating safety and emergency procedures are given and thoroughly reviewed.
3. Teach a system for recalling a craft that is both audible and visible and insure a system is in place to determine the location of boaters at all times.
4. Paddles are sized to each canoeist/boater. All groups should carry 2-3 additional paddles at all times (*provided on site*).
5. Do not exceed craft weight and capacity.
6. Each participant wears a U.S Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (*PFD or lifejacket*) at all times when boating, regardless of swimming ability or age. PFDs must be the appropriate size for the participant. (PFDs are provided on site.)
7. Each participant is instructed in proper use and fit of the PFD that he/she is wearing and is able to demonstrate and practice using a PFD, preferably including an in-the-water experience with the PFD to test the fit and amount of flotation it provides.
8. A check-in/check-out system must be used to indicate who is out in the boats, and to confirm that all boaters have returned at the end of the boating period. This applies to youth and adult user groups.
9. At least one graspable and throwable PFD cushion or ring buoy is immediately available for each group on the water. (Provided on site.)
10. A painter is secured to each end of the canoe/boat. A painter (*also called an endline or grabline*) is a strong line that floats and is at least half the length of the canoe.
11. Canoes hold no more than three participants. Kayaks hold only one participant.
12. No standing in boats at any time.
13. If water temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit or the combined air and water temperature is below 100 degrees Fahrenheit, a wetsuit must be worn. (If temperatures are in questions, please contact the program department.)

**WATERCRAFT ACTIVITY ORIENTATION**

All persons using watercraft should be trained in:

- Boarding and disembarking, trimming, and safe movement on the craft;
- Use of personal flotation devices; and
- Self-rescue in case of capsize or swamping

The above applies to all watercraft offered at the site including canoes and kayaks. Training may be provided by camp staff or rental group leaders. Training in the use of personal flotation devices may include floating in PFDs to test fit and acquaint participants with buoyancy supplied, if participants' physical condition and/or

water conditions permit. Training in a self-rescue may include an actual “tip-test” for appropriate craft, where conditions permit.

### **IMPAIRED MOBILITY & AQUATIC AREAS**

Use care when persons with impaired mobility are near the aquatic area. Physical barriers are present to prevent accidental access to the water. Cases of persons with impaired mobility using the aquatic area should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, to determine the safest way for them to participate in the activity. This assessment should include discussion with an adult participant or with the participant’s parent/guardian.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the Chief of Outdoor Operations at 1-888-922-GSME (4763).

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