



**US Army Corps
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USACE and US Coast Guard Auxiliary Partnering with Paddlesports Leaders to Offer Affordable 'Kayaking 101' Classes To Launch National Safe Boating Week

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Allatoona Lake and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are joining the Georgia chapter of the American Canoe Association and other stakeholders, to offer low-cost kayaking instruction at multiple locations across Georgia on May 16 to kick off National Safe Boating Week.

Other marquee partners include Georgia Canoeing Association, Whitewater Express, Georgia Power Company, Trust for Public Lands, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Forsyth County Parks and Recreation, Cross Currents Leadership, and Georgia Rivers.

This is the fifth year for this multi-state initiative and the third year Georgia is participating, helping hundreds of Georgians safely dip their paddles into kayaking for the first time. Last year, 75 students received training at the coordinated “Kayaking 101” event across Georgia. In 2024, the perennial, multi-state volunteer-led effort was recognized with the [National Safe Boating Council’s Communications Community Impact Award](#). This year, volunteers are offering Kayaking 101 classes to the public on Saturday in 40+ locations across 8 states.

The event is supported by paddling leaders from ACA Georgia and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, as well as instructor volunteers across Georgia who are certified to teach paddlesports by the American Canoe Association (ACA), whose nationally recognized standards guide paddlesports instruction for the event.

Participating Locations

Allatoona Lake: Kellogg Creek Day Use Area

Allatoona Lake: Upper Stamp Creek Day Use Area

Chattahoochee River, Azalea Park, Roswell, GA

Oconee Lake, Lawrence Shoals Campground, Eatonton, GA

Bull Sluice Lake, Morgan Falls Overlook Park, Sandy Springs, GA

Chattahoochee River, New RiverLands Park, Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Lake Lanier, Shady Grove Campground, Cumming, GA

Skidaway Island, Rodney Hall Boat Ramp, Savannah, GA

Chattahoochee River, Whitewater Express, Columbus, GA

All classes will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, rain or shine.

“We love being able to rally the local paddling experts across Georgia to partner on this event every year,” Ranger Rusty Simmons, Chief Ranger of Park Operations at Allatoona Lake, said. “Being able to mobilize this many nationally certified ACA instructors to help beginners is a very powerful way for the community to come together to reinforce safety while we are having fun.”

Our volunteer instructors are excited to welcome newcomers to our sport and give them some hardwon insights about how to stay safe and keep everyone smiling when you go on your paddling adventures,” said Andrea White, ACA Southeastern Chair. “A great first experience can spark a lifelong connection to paddling and love for our waterways.”

Class Information

Each class costs just \$15 per person, including kayak rental and all necessary gear - to receive training that typically costs between \$75 and \$150.

Each park’s session is limited to 15 participants. Instructors are American Canoe Association (ACA)-certified Georgia volunteers backed by experienced safety teams. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary representatives will be present at select sites to reinforce paddlecraft safety and awareness.

For the first time, an Adaptive Kayaking 101 class will be offered at Morgan Falls Overlook Park in Sandy Springs, offering specialized gear and instruction for individuals with physical disabilities.

Also for the first time this year, this event will include Kayak Fishing 101 at Allatoona Lake: Upper Stamp Creek Day Use Area. Participants will need to have a valid Georgia Fishing License to participate.

Supporting Organizations

In addition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Allatoona Lake, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and ACA Georgia, supporting organizations include: Cross Currents Leadership, Georgia Canoeing Association, Georgia Power Company, Trust for Public Land, Forsyth County Parks and Recreation, Nantahala Outdoor Center Chattahoochee Outpost, City of Chattahoochee Hills, Moon River Kayak Tours, Middle Georgia Kayaking, Miller Kayak Trips and Training, Whitewater Express, Festive Water Paddlesports, Cherokee County Special Olympics, Georgia Conservancy, Southeast Paddle Sports, Murph's Surf, Self Preservation Society, University of North Georgia Outdoor Adventures, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Westbrook Supply Co., Catalyst Sports, Refugee Women’s Network, Waves of Color, and Georgia Rivers.

Space is limited. [Registration begins today at this link](#). A free [online course is also available on the ACA Paddlesports site](#), but in-person instruction with a nationally certified instructor is strongly encouraged.