



Level 1: Introduction to Packrafting

Instructor Criteria

Overview: Fundamentally, we expect that participants have the paddling skills, technical knowledge, rescue ability, teaching ability, group management, and interpersonal skills commensurate with this level of certification prior to presenting themselves for evaluation as Instructor Candidates at an Instructor Certification Exam (ICE).

This course is appropriate for all packrafts, including traditional decked, non-decked, and self-bailing vessels. The evaluating Instructor Trainer or Instructor Trainer Educator must be in a packraft. The packraft may be configured according to the Instructor Trainer's or Instructor Trainer Educator's preferences.

Course Prerequisites:

- All participants must acknowledge personal compliance with the [ACA Essential Eligibility Criteria \(EEC\)](#)
- Be a current ACA Member
- Completion of the appropriate level skills course, assessment course, or equivalent skills

Instructor Trainer: This certification course may be offered by Level 1 or higher ACA Instructor Trainers or Instructor Trainer Educators in their discipline.

Course Duration: Combined IDW and ICE - Minimum 2 days (16 hours).

Course Location / Venue: Flat water, protected from waves and outside boat traffic, with current less than 1 knot, wind less than 10 knots, and within swimming distance of shore.

Class Ratio: 5 Instructor Candidates : 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional instructor, the ratio can be 10:2. The maximum number of candidates permitted is 10.

Succeeding courses:

- Level 2: Essentials of River Packrafting
- Level 3: River Packrafting

General Requirements for all Instructor Certifications:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Demonstrate general knowledge of [ACA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) policy and initiatives](#).
- Successfully complete an Instructor Certification Workshop (IDW and ICE)
- Upon successful completion, register with the Safety Education and Instruction Council
- Have and maintain first aid and age appropriate CPR
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately perform and teach all of the following material, unassisted, in the appropriate venue
- Instructors are expected to be able to demonstrate, teach, and model everything on the official ACA skills course and assessment course outlines which correspond to their level/craft.



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Maintenance Requirements:

- Teach at least two courses, that meet ACA standards, within the four-year certification period and properly report the courses to the National Office
- Complete an Instructor Update, at the highest level of certification, during the four-year certification period
- Maintain ACA membership and SEIC registration annually
- Maintain appropriate CPR and first aid certification for the duration of certification

Level 1: Introduction to Packrafting Instructor Requirements:

- 1) Demonstrate a knowledge of ACA Paperwork:
 - How to register and report a course (with and without insurance)
 - An understanding of the ACA Waiver and Release of Liability
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge and ability to efficiently/effectively plan and implement appropriate instructional sessions and assessments for a different learning styles and ability levels, to include:
 - Differentiation of instruction based on the individual learner (student centered)
 - Use of an appropriate skills progression when teaching complex skill sets
 - Selection of appropriate teaching venue based on ability and desired outcomes
 - Focus on core principals rather than specific technique
 - Provides appropriate, specific and meaningful feedback
- 3) Demonstrate the following:
 - Positive interpersonal skills
 - Appropriate group management skills (including leadership and judgment)
 - Ability to choose an appropriate venue /class site
- 4) Demonstrate a clear understanding and the ability to teach the various unique packraft-specific considerations, including but not limited to:
 - Packraft designs, configurations, features, accessories, outfitting, and rigging
 - Performance strengths and weaknesses of different packraft designs
 - Packraft materials, maintenance and repair techniques
 - Best practices for securing gear in boats, and for packing and carrying boats and equipment
 - Boat-based rescue techniques
 - Making safe gear choices while considering weight sensitivity
 - Safety implications of easy access to remote paddling environments
- 5) Demonstrate the ability to competently and confidently paddle a packraft on the maximum allowable venue for the course.
- 6) Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience and judgment



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necessary to be a safe, effective instructor.

Note: An Instructor is expected to be able to demonstrate and teach everything on the L1 Skills Course and The L1 Skills Assessment for their craft.

Instructor Candidates are encouraged to include a copy of [The Packraft Handbook](#) in their teaching toolbox.

Note: This course content meets the [National On Water Standards for human powered craft \(https://www.usnows.org/assess-and-update\)](#).

The [National On Water Standards for human powered craft](#) (NOWS) can be used to:

- Evaluate other paddlers and provide effective feedback
- Effectively make documented skill assessments