

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

SK102: On-Water Kayak Skills Training

Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conquest Beach, Centreville, Maryland

Cost: \$55 (includes \$10 for one year of CPA membership)

General Information:

SK 102 is CPA's on-water instruction event, designed to cover the fundamentals of sea kayaking. It is taught by volunteer instructors who are experienced paddlers and who genuinely enjoy sharing what they know. This is not a race and it is not a test. It is a relaxed, supportive day on the water where everyone learns something -- including the instructors.

The event is designed for beginners and newer paddlers who want to build a solid foundation. If you have ever wondered what to do when your paddle partner capsizes, or wished your forward stroke felt a little more effortless, SK 102 is exactly the right place to work on those things.

Location Details:

SK102 will be held at Conquest Beach, part of the Conquest Preserve, located at 500 Conquest Beach Road, Centreville, Maryland, 21617. Conquest Beach sits on the Chester River and offers a gentle, protected launch with calm water that is ideal for learning and practicing skills. There is parking available on site and a straightforward carry to the water. The site also includes a large pavilion, picnic tables, and restrooms.

Camping is not available on the property, but there is camping close by at Tuckahoe State Park and Martinak State Park. There are motels on Kent Island, and possibly Air BnBs in the local area. Participants are responsible for their own lodging arrangements.

Training Details:

There will be two tracks: Group 1 is for new paddlers; Group 2 is for those who have paddled some, are comfortable doing wet exits, but still have lots to learn. The day will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions, with a break for lunch on the beach.

Here is a sense of what to expect:

- **Morning session:** The focus is on basic strokes and maneuvering. Instructors will work with small groups so everyone gets personal attention and useful feedback. Those who have had a little experience will work on refining these strokes.
- **Lunch break:** A chance to rest, eat, ask questions, and enjoy the Chester River from the beach. Instructors will be around to chat, answer questions, and offer informal advice.
- **Afternoon session:** The afternoon is where things get interesting. Group 1 will work on wet exits, how to get out of your kayak if you capsize and most importantly, how to get back in. Group 2 will work mostly on assisted and self-rescues to refine your technique. Rolling is not covered in SK102, and it is not required. What is required is the willingness to get a little wet and try things that might feel unfamiliar at first, and a sense of

humor. Everyone who comes to SK102 is in the same boat (so to speak) and the atmosphere is always encouraging and fun.

What to Bring:

- Kayak (sea kayak or touring kayak recommended). If you do not have your own boat or re not sure what to bring, please contact us at coordinator@cpakayaker.com; we can help you work through your options.
- Paddle
- PFD (personal flotation device) -- must be worn at all times on the water
- Spray skirt and paddle float, if you have them
- Sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses
- Water and snacks for the morning, lunch for the midday break
- Layers of paddling clothing to keep you warm. Dress for water immersion, not for the air temperature. Even on a warm spring or early summer day, the Chester River water temperature may still be cool enough that getting wet without proper gear is uncomfortable at best and unsafe at worst. A light weight windbreaker will help keep you more comfortable when you get wet.
- Change of clothes for after the paddle

How to Register; Cost:

SK102 slots are limited, and the event always fill up quickly. We want to keep the participant-to-instructor ratio small so that everyone gets meaningful time with an instructor and personal feedback; in addition, we want to prioritize newer paddlers.

Registration is a two-step process. First, please fill out the application at:

<https://forms.gle/aG2Ug2BFVrhaBZPk9>

If your application is accepted, you will receive an email with instructions on how to pay the \$55 fee. This fee includes a one-year membership in CPA (\$10), or a one-year extension, if you are already a member. CPA is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, and our events are either free or, if necessary, priced at near-cost, which in this case includes rental of the Conquest Preserve venue and other expenses.

Cancellations, Refunds:

SK102 is held rain or shine. The only thing that might keep us off the water would be lightning, and even then, we will have learning opportunities on dry land. Refunds are typically available on a sliding scale until we get closer in time to the event. Full details will be provided in your acceptance email. The \$10 CPA membership/extension is not refundable.

For more details about the SK102 event, and to learn more about CPA, please visit our Web site:

<https://www.cpakayaker.com/>

You can also join our private Meetup group to learn more:

<https://www.meetup.com/the-chesapeake-paddlers-association/>

*You can join the CPA Meetup group and participate in all the CPA Meetup events using the free Meetup membership option; you do **NOT** have to sign up for the paid Meetup+ option.*

Important: Joining the Meetup group and signing up for the SK102 event there does **NOT** mean that you are registered for the event; please follow the instructions above in the “How to Register” section.

Questions? Please contact sk102registrar@yahoo.com

We hope to see you in June!