

# Kayak Leader

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Calvert County is uniquely situated between the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay—two great places to paddle! Each season the naturalists lead kayak trips for different groups and programs which are always (weather permitting) a fun way to explore the local aquatic ecosystems up close. Kayak volunteers will work with the naturalist in charge to ensure a safe and enjoyable paddle is had by all. Trips typically launch from and return to Kings Landing Park.

## **Volunteer Duties**

- Complete training
- Help naturalist(s) unload and load boat trailer
- Regulate foot traffic and parking at the launch site as needed
- Pass out equipment to participants(e.g. PFD's, boats, paddles, glow sticks)
- Help participants carry and launch their boats
- Demonstrate paddling skills and provide reinforcement/assistance while on the water
- Discuss or answer questions about local animals, ecosystems, and program topics
- Be alert to the weather, struggling participants, and other issues
- Communicate any problems or potential problems to the naturalist
- Be flexible to the needs of the group and naturalist

## **Training**

Scheduled trainings will be provided at Kings Landing Park. Training must be completed with the concurrence of naturalists before volunteer can assume a leadership role. Aspiring volunteers may shadow existing volunteers until training is complete.

## **Requirements**

- Prior kayak experience
- Strong paddling and swimming skills
- Knowledge of paddling and water safety
- Ability to lead and speak to a small group
- Ability to gauge safety of situations and communicate instructions clearly

*Personal kayak not required, but very helpful.*

## **Project Dates**

Kayak trips are held in the fall (August-October) and spring (April-June). Frequency and topics of trips subject to change based on weather and availability of naturalists.