

# Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers

## What You Need To Know Before Paddling

Revised 2014

### **Paddling Can Be Dangerous**

Kayaking can be physically and mentally demanding. It can involve significant risks and hazards. *Some* of these can be hypothermia, hyperthermia, sun stroke, joint or trauma injuries, poisonous snake and spider bites, stepping on stingrays, getting injured on oysters and rocks, alligator and shark attack, getting hit by lightning and even drowning. Injury, personal and property damage, to you and others, may occur while travelling to or from a kayaking activity. Accident or injury can also occur loading or unloading your kayak from vehicles or carrying your kayak or that of others.

### **TBSK Trip Leaders Are Volunteers – Not Professionals**

Just as you voluntarily elect to be a Tampa Bay Sea Kayaker (TBSK) member, attend a TBSK event, you need to be aware that TBSK trip leaders are volunteers. They do not, in any way, claim to be professionals or otherwise licensed, certified, trained, etc. to provide any service. They do not claim to be professional outfitters nor are they trained in emergency medical procedures. While trip leaders are provided with Trip Leader orientation outlined in the TBSK Paddling Guide, the guidance is general in nature and not intended to be comprehensive. As a TBSK member, YOU agreed to read the Paddling Guide posted on the TBSK website. You are responsible for rating your skills per the information in the Paddling Guide and *you will only go on TBSK paddles for which you have skills to ensure a safe paddle for yourself*. You agree and understand TBSK members or Trip leaders do not assess your skills.

### **Further you specifically acknowledge that:**

Trip Leaders are volunteers who are not required to have any certification from the American Canoe Association (ACA), British Canoe Union (BCU) or any other recognized paddling authority. Nor are they required to receive first aid instruction or provide first aid assistance. A paddler is always primarily responsible for his or her own safety.

The Paddling Guide, used as a part of trip leader orientation, is a compilation of lessons learned by our club's Trip Leaders and members. It contains practical tips and general guidelines to lead a trip. It is not intended to be a thorough, all inclusive manual for members or for training and safety. Therefore, it may not include some important safety issues. The Paddling Guide has not been reviewed by ACA, BCU or any other recognized paddling authority.