

ACA L1 Tandem Canoe Instructor Certification Workshop (L1 ICW)

Steven Henkind, M.D.

ACA L2 Touring Canoe Instructor Trainer

ACA L3 Coastal Kayak Instructor Trainer



Description of the ICW

There are numerous benefits to becoming certified as an ACA (American Canoe Association) Instructor:

- Significant improvement in your own canoeing skills
- Learning how to teach others to canoe
- Instructor discounts from major manufacturers
- Insurance for courses that you teach
- The satisfaction of being recognized as a proficient canoeist

The first day of the ICW focuses on strokes, the second day introduces additional strokes and rescues, and the third day focuses on refinement of strokes, and rescues. Risk assessment/safety management, group management, and teaching, are integrated throughout the three days. Although this ICW is designed for Tandem canoe certification, you will also learn and refine Solo canoe skills. A significant amount of time is devoted to improvement of personal skills, so you should leave the ICW as a significantly improved paddler. Given the attention paid to personal improvement, this course is also an excellent choice for canoeists who want to improve their skills and are not interested in instructor certification.

In order to ensure a solid training experience, ACA requires a minimum of four participants in order to run this ICW. Class size is limited to twelve.

You should be aware that participating in the workshop does *not* guarantee that you will be certified. There are specific ACA criteria and tasks that you need to satisfy. However, if you are willing to do some preparation, and if you are open to coaching in order to refine the necessary skills, you stand a very good chance of becoming certified.



Instructor Trainer Background

Steve Henkind is the highest ranked ACA kayak instructor/trainer on the entire Gulf Coast, from Florida to Texas. His ACA certifications include L2 Touring Canoe Instructor Trainer, L3 Coastal Kayak Instructor Trainer, L4 Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor, L3 River Kayak Instructor, and ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor. In addition to his ACA credentials, Steve has also been a member of the U.S. Coast Guard in various capacities for over 20 years. Given his Coast Guard and medical backgrounds, he takes safety very seriously. His classes are fun and highly educational, but safety is always the first priority.

Participant Perspective

The following descriptions were provided by recent participants and provide a good perspective as to the benefits of participating in an ICW.

“Steve organized and ran an outstanding Canoe Instructor Certification Workshop. I learned a lot and achieved both ACA Tandem and Solo Certifications. The class was rigorous. Steve’s focus was on safety and skills and, in addition, the event was a lot of fun. In conclusion, I am pleased to provide Steve with my highest recommendation as an Instructor Trainer in Touring Canoe.” [Instructor Candidate]

“Not only was I able to learn how to teach, but also I was able to correct many poor paddling habits that I had picked up over the years. Steve was able to observe and diagnose what I was doing. He was then able to work with me to correct various aspects of my paddling in a non-threatening, constructive manner. I came out of the course as a different, much improved paddler.” [Instructor Candidate]

“At the age of 73, I took up canoeing and soon discovered that I could not control my boat. In fact, I could hardly make it move at all. I started training with Steve Henkind and after just my first lesson, was able to control the canoe! Steve was patient, extremely knowledgeable, and respectful of my limitations while encouraging me to challenge myself. Because of training with him, I am much safer and a much more competent canoeist. I highly recommend Steve Henkind as a Canoe Instructor!” [Student participating for Skills Development]

For further information, please feel free to contact Steven Henkind at 914-420-1615 (cell) or steven.henkind@gmail.com