



Dear Workshop Participants,

Our surf workshop is quickly approaching and we hope that you are as excited as I am about this class. The beginner surf workshop is designed to help you gain the knowledge and skills to paddle safely in 2-4 foot seas, breaking waves and 10-15 knot winds. Participants should have a firm grasp on basic strokes and be comfortable edging, bracing, performing a wet-exit and un-assisted and assisted re-entries. A roll is not required for this workshop, but the beginnings of a roll are highly recommended. If you have any questions about these skills please contact us.

Day one will be a fun and informative day at the Geneva Kayak Center as we focus on the environmental factors that give us surf, surf protocol, and safe paddling in the surf zone during a 2-hour classroom session. Following our classroom session we'll head out on the Fox River to learn and/or refine the strokes and boat control needed for paddling rough water. Participants should expect to practice wet-exits and re-entries during the on-water session.

On day two, we will head to one of several locations on Lake Michigan for our surf session. Our ideal location is Montrose beach of Chicago, but due to the unpredictable nature of wind and waves on Lake Michigan our locations may range from Sheboygan, WI to South Haven, MI, both of which are 2.5 to 3 hours driving distance from the Geneva Kayak Center. We will know our location for day two several days in advance and will notify you of our workshop location. During day two, we will concentrate on launching and landing in breaking waves, paddling in swells and riding waves.

In a surf workshop, immersion is inevitable and the water in Lake Michigan will range between 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit. Paddlers should be prepared for immersion with cold water paddling gear is mandatory. A drysuit is recommended with a drytop/wetsuit combination being the bare minimum paddling gear. A gear list is listed below, please contact us with any questions.

To-Bring List

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook and Pen (Day 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Watertight Sprayskirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle Float |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle & Spare Paddle | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PFD | <input type="checkbox"/> Bilge Pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helmet | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Drink in Vacuum Flask |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drysuit or Drytop/Wetsuit Combination | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Base Layers | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare Clothing in Drybag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hood or Skullcap | <input type="checkbox"/> Packed Lunch (Day 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves or Pogies | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooly Cap | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel & Change of Clothing | |

Bring this list in to the shop for 10% off on any gear (excluding boats) between now and the workshop