

## Trip Leader Checklist

### Trip :

assessment of trip –  
Conditions/forecast  
Back-up/contingency/plan B

### Paddlers :

assessment –  
Boats  
Equipment  
Skills

### Explain/Discuss trip :

Suggestions/needs/wants  
Objectives  
Skills practice?  
Potty stops  
Distance/duration

### Explain protocol :

Basic signals (whistle for attention, vertical paddle for gather-up)  
Staying together  
Leader, sweep

### Equipment Check :

PFDs zipped, hatches secured, etc.  
Radios, cell phones, first aid etc. ; who's got 'em

## On Leading

Constant awareness and empathy  
Personal as well as group communication  
Leader takes blame/responsibility for decisions  
Move around within group  
Make paddle interesting ; stop/explore/weave/land, watch and observe for interesting stuff  
Don't teach or coach unless requested  
No pressure on anyone to perform  
Awareness, awareness, awareness –  
Keep track, keep count, constantly

Etc.

### Leader Equipment :

First Aid Kit

Spare Clothes  
Extra water/Candy bar?  
Tow options  
Spare paddle  
Flares  
Emergency kit for fire?

What ifs :

Visualize scenarios and prepare for them

Check-in with everyone :

Assess, assess, assess

Launching/Landing :

Assist launching – help everyone then last off

Assist landing – first on then assist everyone to land