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**Hire of Girlguiding Cornwall’s Kayaks at County Campsite Condurro.**

We hope your girls have a great time out on the water!

Kayaks and all the equipment you need, including an instructor can be hired.

**There are 24 spaces available for kayaking.  The yellow kayaks can be quite snug. We have 2 orange kayaks which fit any size and 2 red kayaks which are particularly suitable for smaller participants.**

The hire fee of £36 + £5 per person for the Kayaks.

You will be invoiced for kayaking once your booking is made.

Please ensure that you have booked the campsite separately by completing the booking form on the website.

**Who is able to able to join in?**

The rules on girls being able to swim 50m have recently changed. For many activities around or on water, confidence in the water is more important than the ability to swim a particular distance. Often girls will need to be assisted back onto a craft by the qualified adult running the activity and they should have the confidence to remain in the water until rescued.

Leaders should check the swimming ability and **confidence in water** of their girls, and highlight those with weak swimming abilities or low water confidence to the instructor. Where weak swimmers or those with low water confidence are taking part, this should be **risk assessed** and ratios may need to be amended. You can get good swimmers who have low water confidence if the environment in which they are swimming is different to usual.

The ratio for Kayaking is 1:8. The A-Z of activities states 2 adults are needed. Therefore, a Leader will normally be the second adult and must either be in a Kayak or be available through of out the activity on the bank with a throw-line (the instructor will be able to provide one if necessary).

**Instructor**

An instructor will be arranged for you by the Kayak Advisor. Under no circumstances are the Kayaks to be on the water without the permission of a qualified instructor.

**Leaders to brief the instructor on any health issues before entering the water.**

**On the day**

The creek is deep enough to use an hour either side of high tide. So session times will be fixed to accommodate this.

Sessions can be split, with up to 12 people per session, in two back-to-back, 45-minute sessions.

You will need to open the Kayak store, the key for this is hooked up in the Condo room. You will need to know the door code to enter, which should have been provided (Kayak Advisor has a spare key if in doubt!)

All participants must be ready in appropriate clothing and have a buoyancy aid (found in the Kayak Store) fitted at the agreed start time. A swimsuit, wetsuit, spray top and wet shoes are ideal. Alternatively, tracksuit bottoms, a synthetic fleece top and an old cagoule are very suitable. Shoes should be old and capable of being well secured to the foot and getting muddy. Clothes which are made from natural materials are heavy when wet e.g. wool and should be avoided. A plastic bag for wet and muddy clothes afterwards is recommended!

There are a few glasses strings, and waterproof phone cases available to borrow. Ensure the cases are fully closed as no responsibility for damage to phones can be taken.

The code to the kayak padlock will be emailed to you. Please make sure you have this to hand so you can unlock and lock the kayaks!

All participants must be able to carry the kayaks from the campsite to the water and back. Most instructors will meet the girls at the campsite, check the kit over and help to adjust buoyancy aids. Once everyone is ready the girls, leaders and helpers will need to carry the kayaks down to the creek side.

**When you have finished kayaking**

All kayaks and equipment must be carried back to the campsite by the participants and rinsed well in fresh water using the hose to remove all the mud.

Yellow kayaks are to be returned to the rack and **must be angled** **down** to prevent the ingress of rainwater. The bars and padlocks are to be secured and the 4 red/orange kayaks secured with the lead passed through the kayaks and the lower bar.

Buoyancy aids are to be rinsed and left free from mud. Please zip and clip these, then place back onto the hangers and hung on the rope provided in the Kayaking Store to dry. Paddles are also to be returned to the Kayak store.

**Happy and safe paddling! Please let the kayak booking secretary know how it went and how many participated after the event.** She can be contacted on kayak-bookings@girlguidingcornwall.org.uk

Copy of our Paddle UK certificate.

