

WAKE TRIP INITIATOR DUTIES

Definition

A Trip Initiator is a WAKE member who decides that he/she wishes to organize a paddling trip and is willing to invite either WAKE members exclusively, or a combination of WAKE members and non-members to participate. The Trip Initiator is NOT a “tour guide.” The Trip Initiator is NOT a paid professional from who is expected a high degree of paddling expertise and who is insured against liability claims. For the purposes of WAKE, a Trip Initiator is a volunteer.

Duties

1. The Trip Initiator “advertises” the event through WAKE channels (e.g. email, newsletter, etc.).
2. The Trip Initiator will be available to answer basic questions about the intended route, location of the launching and return points, time to arrive, estimated time of return, etc.
3. All participants in WAKE paddles MUST have signed a WAKE Liability Waiver before embarking on the paddle. Waivers from organizations other than WAKE are NOT VALID.
 - a) WAKE members who have signed the waiver with their membership application/renewal form do not have to sign another for the trip. [*A current membership list may be obtained from a member of the Board of Directors*]
 - b) The Trip Initiator should have blank (unsigned) waiver forms at the put-in and obtain signatures from any participant who does not have a signed waiver on file.
 - c) Waivers collected at the put-in must be protected from damage. It is recommended that they be left in the Trip Initiator’s vehicle, rather than taken on the paddle.
 - d) Waivers need to be conveyed to the Board of Directors following the event.
4. It is not the responsibility of the Trip Initiator to provide equipment, clothing, food, water, or any other items to participants; however, there is no prohibition to the Trip Initiator doing so or to bringing such items as might be useful in an emergency.
5. The Trip Initiator should organize or personally conduct a safety briefing and risk assessment prior to launching. Possible topics include: route description; communications; VHF radio protocol; and identifying who has emergency equipment, special skills, or special needs.
6. The Trip Initiator is empowered to decide to alter the route, cut short or terminate the paddle, or to decide not to paddle at all.
7. The Trip Initiator is empowered to deny participation to paddlers who are unprepared.