



Becoming an ECOMARINE INSTRUCTOR

2012 Instructor Courses

PC Introduction to Kayak (IK) Instructor- April 27, 28, 29
PC Level One Instructor- May 1 – 4

Being an ocean kayaking instructor is a hugely rewarding and fun occupation. If you have a passion for paddling, an interest in developing your skills, and most importantly a desire to share the sport with others, we would love to talk to you about joining our team. It takes time and resources to gain the training required to become a top level Instructor, however, if you are determined and passionate the process to instructing is easy.

Ecomarine's Coastal Kayaking School has introduced over 50,000 paddlers to the world of kayaking since 1980. Our school has grown to be one of the most respected in the world and our success is due in large part to our dedicated and skilled Instructor team. We employ a team of about 25 Paddle Canada certified Instructors every season. Many are part time instructors with a core group teaching full time. We also offer guiding, retail and rental positions which when combined with instructing can offer full time seasonal employment opportunities. Our school is composed of the following four key elements and we have employment opportunities within each:

1. Instruction
2. Facilities and equipment
3. Administration
4. Programming and philosophies

There are many important steps to becoming a Paddle Canada certified ocean kayaking Instructor. Please consider this process carefully before beginning as it involves a serious commitment of time and resources.

Requirements for Becoming an Ecomarine Instructor:

1. **Paddling experience** – Ideally we are looking for individuals with 20 overnight tripping days. As a minimum you will need to have solid Paddle Canada Level One Skills.
2. **First aid certification** – Participation in a 16 hour program with CPR 'C' is required at a minimum. A 40 hour wilderness based first aid program is recommended if you intend to pursue instruction or guiding on a longer term basis.

3. **Paddle Canada Instructor Certification** – Please see program dates listed at the top of this page. We recommend you begin with the Paddle Canada Introduction to Kayaking certification.
4. **Instructor Application** – Download and complete the Ecomarine Instructor Application form found on our website. Email it to school@ecomarine.com along with your resume, or bring it in person to our Granville Island location.

Once you have joined our Instructor Team the training process will be as follows:

1. **Ecomarine Training** – Each spring we run in house training for our dedicated instructors as well as new hires. Training will focus on:
 - Paddling skills
 - Logistics of running an Ecomarine program
 - Instructional and coaching skills
 - Product knowledge and sales skills
2. **Scheduling** - We begin scheduling instructors in January so knowing your summer availability early will allow you to commit to programs as soon as possible and will give you to access more work. You must be available to work May through September, including weekends and evenings. The amount of work you have access to will depend upon your availability during our busy times, which is evenings and weekends in summer months.
3. **Observing** – Prior to teaching a program you must observe it being taught by a seasoned instructor. The School Director will arrange for you to observe each course you are qualified to teach, at least once, and will work with you to help you develop your teaching skills.
4. **Assisting** – Once you feel comfortable with the program content you will be able to assist on a program as a second instructor. The School Director will pair you with a seasoned instructor who will mentor you through the process. You will be given the opportunity to teach sections you are comfortable with and observe those sections you are unsure of. Ideally you will assist on at least two sessions of each program you are qualified to teach.
5. **Leading** – Once you feel confident with the program content you will be given the chance to lead a program with a seasoned instructor aiding you as back up. After this you will be ready to teach on your own and possibly begin to mentor other new instructors.

Ecomarine is seeking instructors with patience, enthusiasm, motivation, maturity, creativity and knowledge. These attributes will ensure a safe, respectful and enjoyable learning environment for all of our students. Thank you for considering becoming an Ecomarine Instructor.

Happy Paddling,
Chris Ladner
Owner of Ecomarine &
Paddle Canada Instructor Trainer