

Camp Classen YMCA Waterfront

This is one of the most dangerous places on the camp property.

- There must be a **Camp Classen Staff member** present while boating is underway.
- There must be an **Adult** present for all fishing activities.
- Swimming is **NOT** allowed during Outdoor School with out the Outdoor School Directors specific permission.

Fishing

- Fishing is permitted in Camp Classen Lakes form the fishing dock only. Please do not fish from or near the boating area.
- We recommend adults purchase an Oklahoma Fishing License. You can get one at Rose's Grocery on Hwy 77 towards Davis (About 3 miles from camp). Game Wardens have been known to come by just to check and have given fines.
- **All fishing is catch and release**—pictures only please!
- You must provide your one fishing equipment and bate.

Canoeing Guide

RULES:

- **EVERYONE MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET.**
- **CANOES ARE TIPPY! DO NOT STAND UP IN A CANOE.**
- **NO HORSEPLAY OR WATER FIGHTS.**
- **RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT NEATLY TO THE OAR HOUSE, AND BOATS TO BOAT RACKS.**
- **BEWARE OF WEATHER. NO BOAT USE DURING BAD WEATHER OR LIGHTNING.** Wind is more of a problem at Lake Guy James.

1. The right size **paddle** should be about the length from your **toe to your neck**.
2. **Allowing sand or mud in the blade can damage paddles.**
3. Sand gets in the wood grain, and water makes them crack. Try putting the **HANDLE** side in the sand if you need to. **Plastic paddles will break! Don't wedge them in things!**
4. **How to hold a paddle:** With one hand, wrap your fingers over the top handle, your thumb around to the side. The other hand should hold the shaft of the paddle in a comfortable manner near the blade.
5. **Sand is hard on canoes.** Sand will grate on the bottom of the canoe! **Carry** the canoe to water, then wade into the water, or move it to the dock, and get in from there.
6. The person paddling in the **front** is called the **bow paddler**. His/her job is to provide power. The person should paddle on only one side, look out for hazards, and need not steer.
7. The person paddling in the **back** is called the **stern paddler**. Her/his job is to provide power and steer.
8. Try to go with **one person paddling** on each side of the canoe. **Steering** is done all on one side, this keeps the canoe more stable, and when you're good at it, you can go faster than switching sides!
9. If the stern paddler is **paddling on the right:**
 - A wide "C" shaped stroke will turn the canoe sharply **left**.
 - A strong "J", or paddle with a ruddering motion and a flip of the wrist will turn the canoe to the **right**.
10. An adult always needs to be in the canoe. If there are two students and one adult, the adult sits on the bottom of the canoe in the middle. Never sit on the thwarts (the bars in the middle of the canoe). Not only can these break, but it makes a canoe unstable.
11. When canoeing, please avoid the far ends of the lakes. Wetlands are very fragile ecosystems and nesting grounds for assorted wildlife including ducks and Great Blue Herons.
12. Take turns so everybody has a chance to canoe!

Row Boating Guide

RULES:

- **EVERYONE MUST WEAR A PERSONAL FLOATION DEVICE.**
- **DO NOT STAND UP IN A BOAT.**
- **NO HORSEPLAY OR WATER FIGHTS.**
- **RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT NEATLY TO THE OAR HOUSE.**
- **BEWARE OF WEATHER. NO BOAT USE DURING HEAVY WINDS OR LIGHTNING. Wind is more of a problem at Lake Guy James.**

1. The **rower should face the back (stern) of the rowboat.** To stay on course, fix sight on a point on shore (a tree, etc).
2. **To row, pull back** towards you on the oars when the handles are high (and the oars are in the water), then **push away** from yourself when the oar handles are low, and the oars are out of the water. Both oars should move together: out of the water together, and in the water together. Long steady strokes make the boat go faster, and tire out the rower less.
3. **To turn, pull one oar harder than the other.** You may use one oar as a fulcrum by leaving it standing in the water. You may even try moving one the normal (forward) way, and the other going backwards. This will turn you very quickly, “on a dime.”
4. Allow yourself twice the amount of time to return to the dock that you spent going out. This is called the “2/3’s Rule.” You spend 1/3 of your time going out and 2/3’s of your time coming back.
5. Remember, there is a maximum of three people in a row boat. It can be only students or a mixture of students and adults.
6. When boating, please avoid the far ends of the lakes. Wetlands are very fragile ecosystems and nesting grounds for assorted wildlife including ducks and Great Blue Herons.
7. Take turns so everybody has a chance to row!