

Corcl Boats: Safety Activity Checkpoint

HIGH-ADVENTURE ACTIVITY: [Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form Required](#)



Council Approval: Required
Activity Permitted For: B J C S A

Not Recommended For: Daisies

Learn More:

Instructions, tips, and games to use with girls: Corcl.com

About Corcl Boats

The Corcl boat is designed specifically for 8- to 15-year-olds to enjoy in flat water: spinning, racing, and having fun at the shore. Corcls offer a great first experience for girls who will progress to other paddle sports. Paddlers can move easily and quickly through the water. The boats feature a 225-pound capacity, an innovative double-hull that is designed for many ways to paddle, and ergonomic handles for easy carrying and transport.

Corcls flip over easily, so paddlers need to be comfortable in the water. Corcls are not to be towed behind a motorized craft and are for use in flat, calm waters only.

Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers, and ask about needs and accommodations.

Additional Resources:

See Abilities.com and Dream Adaptive for information about inclusion and adaptive equipment for paddlers.

Safety Activity Checkpoint

Ensure participants are able to swim and are comfortable in the water. Success on the water depends on comfort and ability in the water. Consult with parents/guardians about girls' swim abilities before the event. See the [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoint](#) for samples, or ask your instructor for guidelines.

Ensure all paddlers are wearing a U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket. Type III life jackets are recommended. They should fit according to weight and height specifications. Inspect life jackets to ensure that they are in good condition and contain no tears.

Start in shallow water where girls can learn how to navigate paddling, board their boat, balance using their arms and paddles, and stay centered.

Verify lifeguard qualifications and experience. Ensure lifeguards have current certification in American Red Cross (ARC) Lifeguarding with Waterfront Module, or the equivalent.

The instructor or lifeguard must be able to communicate effective commands and instructions and reviews them with girls before the activity begins.

Ensure the instructor or lifeguard reviews site-specific emergency plans.

Note that a stationary lifeguard can only be used when corcl boating is taking place on flat water close to a dock or shore. For large bodies of flat water, the lifeguard must be in a boat and positioned with the group.

Arrange for watchers/helpers. One dedicated adult watcher or skilled helper is required for every 12 girls, plus one additional adult. See the [Paddling and Rowing Sports--Master Progression Chart](#) in *Safety Activity Checkpoints 2018-2019*. Watchers should have basic skills in the activity and support the group by reinforcing instructions, watching for possible emergencies, and helping with rescues if needed. Basic water rescue, small craft safety, or similar training is the preferred preparation.

Remind girls to stay clear of paddles. Because Corcls are small and boats can float close to one another, paddlers can inadvertently hit other paddlers and boats.

Practice recovery procedures. When girls step on the edge of a boat, the Corcl will flip. Demonstrate self-recovery and righting techniques, and have girls learn and practice these skills. This will help prevent this situation from disorientating or frightening them if their Corcl flips and they end up in the water.

Select a safe site. Corcl boats are only approved for flat water. Do not paddle in unknown areas. Paddling is only permitted near shore.

Learn lifeguard signals. Whistle and visual signals may be used to pass messages, call girls in, or call for help. Cover these before beginning the activity.

Prepare for emergencies. Pack a waterproof first-aid kit. Follow other guidelines in [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints 2018-2019](#).

Safety Gear

- U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket for every paddler
- Kayak paddle for each boat (smaller girls may go two girls to a Corcl, but only one paddle is used per boat)
- Rescue gear such as throw bag or throw line
- Tether or painter attached to each boat
- Cell phone or walkie-talkies to communicate need for emergency services

Girl Scouts of Northern California's Approval Process for Corcl Boating

Corcl Boating is considered a high-adventure activity and must be pre-approved by the council.

- **Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form:** Submit the online [Trip or High-Adventure Approval Form](#) to council at least 4-6 weeks prior to your activity.
- **High-Adventure Approved Vendor List:** GSNorCal troops/groups must select a [high-adventure vendor](#) from the High-Adventure Approved Vendor List, which consists of organizations that meet Girl Scouts safety and insurance requirements for the activity.

For the safety of our members, before a troop uses a high-adventure site/vendor for a troop or service unit event, the council must approve the high-adventure site/vendor. This process is designed to ensure a safe experience and protect the council's and volunteer's legal interests.

- **Adding high-adventure facilities to the Approved Vendor List:** If your preferred vendor is not listed on the High-Adventure Approved Vendor list, please follow the simple steps in the [Volunteer Essentials](#) for adding High Adventure Vendors.