

LEVEL 1: FOUNDATIONS

We start from ground zero- but you'll leave with a strong foundation in packrafting basics. Perfect for the "never ever" packrafter or those who have had some exposure/paddled a few times, but without formal instruction. This course exposes you to the essentials of packrafting- both the hiking & paddling.

Length: 1 day, 6 hrs

River Class: I

Venue: Eagle River, Briggs Bridge Greenbelt parking lot.

Cost: \$150

CURRICULUM:

- Gear Basics: Equipment & terminology (boat, paddle, PFD, drysuit, clothes), maintenance & care
- Land Travel & Transport Basics: packing, hiking, carrying & boat inflation
- Stowing Gear & Rigging for the Water
- Entry Level Paddle Strokes for Basic Boat Control: Forward, backward & sweep strokes
- Trip Plans: Executing day trips on class I moving water
- Alaska Specific Considerations

ITINERARY:

Meet at trailhead parking lot for group introductions & course expectations. Here we discuss gear basics and answer questions before packing up our gear and hiking to the put-in. (45 min-1 hr)

The 2 mile hike is relatively flat with a trail the entire way; the trail may be wet with mud or snow. (1 hr)

At the put-in beach you'll learn inflation basics & tips/tricks for stowing gear as you rig your boat (& yourself!) for the water. (30-45 min)

We go over paddle techniques & safety concerns/situational hazards for moving water before launching. Then the river becomes our classroom: paddling 3.2 miles of class I while refining boat control & paddle strokes along the way. (1.5-2 hrs)

Course ends at the trailhead. Final Q & A, debrief and course wrap up before departure.

NOT COVERED IN LEVEL 1: Self or group rescue, swimming or rescue scenarios, throw rope use, intermediate/advanced paddle strokes, multi-day/overnight trips, reading class II (or higher) rivers and safety considerations