

Canoes on Wheels Program Policies

Introduction

These *Policies* have been developed by the *Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters* (FOTSCH) Board of Directors to assist teachers/community leaders with the cooperative use of Canoes *on Wheels* (COW) equipment. These *Policies* may be reviewed and amended by the FOTSCH Board as needed and the Board may make exceptions based on special conditions/situations. Major policy considerations are:

Equipment Ownership: All COW equipment, including canoe trailer, canoes, paddles, personal floatation devices (PFD) and other shared equipment is solely owned by FOTSCH.

Curriculum Involvement: COW equipment may be used to assist in delivering any school content area curriculum including aquatic studies, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) identification, physical education skills development, area cultural enlightenment and community environmental awareness. COW equipment is not intended for individual recreational usage.

Equipment Storage/Security: Teacher/person checking out COW equipment will be responsible for securing all equipment. This includes locking the PFD and paddle container, chaining and locking the canoes and locking the hitch. Any missing/broken equipment will be replaced/repared by the school/organization that last used the equipment. COW equipment will be stored in a secure sheltered area (yet to be determined) during the off season.

Insurance/Liability: Schools/organizations assume all insurance and liability responsibilities while using COW equipment. Be it understood that FOTSCH shall not be held liable for injury or property damage incurred while using COW equipment.

Usage/Scheduling: COW equipment may be scheduled from the COW Coordinator (yet to be determined) at any time on a “first-come-first-served” basis for a week at a time. It is the responsibility of the individual checking out the equipment to transport all equipment.

Volunteer Selection: Only trustworthy and adequately trained volunteers should be used to transport COW equipment and work with students.

Safety Considerations: Staff/personnel checking out equipment should be well versed in canoeing and water safety skills including CPR and hypothermia care. **Wearing personal floatation devices while on the water is mandatory for students and staff.**

Yes, I have read and understand all the *Canoes on Wheels Policies*.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Organization _____

6/16/09