



Welcome

Prairie State Canoeists is open to paddlers of any skill level. Our trips, social events, instructional classes, and other activities are designed for the enjoyment

For The Enjoyment of Paddling

The members of PSC are enthusiastic about all kinds of self-propelled water sports and invite new members to share in the fun. Most trips are suitable for both kayaks and canoes. Some seek the thrill of whitewater canoeing and kayaking.

Instruction

PSC instructors are certified by the American Canoe Association. Classes for both canoe and kayak include Introduction to Paddling (basic strokes and maneuvering) and Moving Water 1 and 2 (handling your boat in river currents). Activities such as River Canoe Camping, Leave No Trace, and Wilderness Tripping teach outdoor skills.

The Price Is Right

During this year—our Golden Anniversary year—we invite you and your entire family to join us as our guests at no cost. Visit the web site for information about joining. You will receive an introductory welcome plus access to members-only information on the web site.

of the outdoors and area waterways.

Established in 1971, Prairie State Canoeists (PSC) is a not-for-profit club of more than 300 families who organize trips for the enjoyment of canoe and kayak paddlers. The club sponsors more than a hundred trips annually throughout northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

Where Are the Rivers to Paddle?

Most of our trips are within a hundred miles of Chicago, but we also travel to Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan, with some adventuresome paddlers heading as far away as Florida and Montana. Most trips are one-day outings on weekends, but many of us like to combine paddling with camping for longer excursions.

Getting Started

Rent, borrow, or buy a canoe or kayak. Several dealers and liveries in the area sell or rent canoes and kayaks, paddles, and lifejackets (PFDs). PSC does not provide boats or equipment.

Look on the web site for a trip that interests you and contact the trip leader regarding level of difficulty and safety issues. Check out the instructional opportunities.



How Do I Find Them?

A complete description of each trip is posted on the PSC web site, including contact information, directions to the launch site, and the starting time.

How Difficult Are They?

The group leader rates the difficulty and challenge of each trip, ranging from "Beginner" through "Expert." A trip designated Beginner is usually on a lake or slow-flowing river, and the trip leader will help you get started.

How Do I Get Back To My Car?

After unloading your boat and gear you drive your car to the take-out location and then you are shuttled back to the starting point. Your car will be waiting at the end of the trip.



PSC uses social media to reach our members

Meetup

[meetup.com/Prairie-State-Canoe-Kayak-Meetup/](https://www.meetup.com/Prairie-State-Canoe-Kayak-Meetup/)



Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/852333984822913/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/852333984822913/)

PSC



Start your PSC adventure

by checking out the web site

prairiestatecanoeists.org

The PSC web site serves the communication needs of our members in many ways.

You can:

- Access it from any internet connected device—smartphone, tablet, computer.
- Fill out your membership application and pay dues online.
- Ask questions about and sign up for paddle trips, training, and social events, including paying any fees online.
- Receive newsletters and bulletins electronically.

When you join PSC, your information is secure and can be accessed only by other members. All official communication is through email to our members.

Look for these areas of interest on the web site:

- Paddling trips • Social events
Training events • How-to advice
Paddler's marketplace • Club news
Trip reports • Open Forum
Places of interest

How to join PSC

Go to the web site
and click on

Come Join Us
on the home page.



A Canoe and Kayak Club

prairiestatecanoeists.org

Why Join A Club?

Clubs are full of friendly people willing to share their enthusiasm for paddling and eager to invite you along on their next adventure.

They have paddled thousands of miles and will talk to you enthusiastically about boats and gear, trip planning, and local water conditions.

When you want to go paddling, club members will cheerfully invite you to come along and give you directions—or a ride, if you need one.

When you arrive at the put-in, they will help you get your boat down to the water's edge and then help put it back on your vehicle at the end of the trip.

They will hold your boat steady while you get in, loan you equipment, fish you and your gear out of the drink if you capsize, help you get safe, warm, and dry, and offer you anything from a sandwich to a sweatshirt.

And for years, you will share memories of the experience with your new paddling companions.



50 YEARS

of great paddling.

Celebrate with us!



A Canoe and Kayak Club

[www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://prairiestatecanoeists.org)

• Founded in 1971 •