

MDC offers free kayak classes

The kayak is a versatile watercraft. They are easy to paddle and also relatively light for transport to rivers or lakes. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer free kayaking classes in two sessions on Thursday, July 11, at Pike's Lake at the Poosey Conservation Area northwest of Chillicothe in Livingston County. The first session will be from 9 to 11 a.m., and the second will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Kayaks are narrow watercraft that ride low in the water. They're highly maneuverable. Most are propelled by the paddler with a double-bladed paddle. Some paddlers use them to simply explore rivers and lakes, other users fish from them. Some deluxe models may be outfitted with electric trolling motors and electronics such as GPS units. One manufacturer makes a version with pedals and fins to propel the craft.

MDC's class will focus on using simple kayaks that are paddled. Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets will be provided for participants. Staff will also have some canoes available in case participants also wish to try paddling canoes. This class is open to participants ages 12 and up. Families are welcome to attend this hands-on chance to learn an outdoor skill that fits well with on-the-water fun in summer.

Space is limited for the classes. To register, please visit MDC's events signup website at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zf7>. For more information, call MDC's Chillicothe office at 660-646-6122.