



Organization Profile - February 2022

Introduction

The Saskatoon Canoe Club (SCC) is a group of paddling enthusiasts of varying skill levels and interests. A Saskatchewan non-profit membership corporation founded in 1973 and based out of the 1989 Jeux Canada Games boathouse in Victoria Park, the SCC is involved in a variety of types of canoeing and kayaking, from recreational flatwater and whitewater paddling to competitive marathon racing. The SCC has kayaks and canoes for a variety of purposes and paddling styles. It offers courses to members as well as opportunities for canoe and kayak trips on waterways throughout Saskatchewan.

The objectives of the SCC are to promote, foster and perpetuate all types of canoeing in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan for the benefit of its members and the general public. To this end, it works to:

1. Promote the safe use of canoes and kayaks.
2. Promote the preservation of natural waterways for use by hand-powered craft.
3. Promote recreational canoeing and kayaking for individuals and families.
4. Promote the sport of marathon canoeing on an amateur basis.

The Saskatoon Canoe Club has two divisions, the Recreation Division and the Marathon Division. For an annual fee, members may join either division or both and make use of SCC equipment to paddle from the boathouse dock as often as they like. In an effort to make paddling accessible to as many people as possible, the SCC does not charge any membership fees for children under 18. Thanks to a dedicated volunteer base and prudent financial management, the club is able to keep adult membership fees very affordable.

Recreation Division

The SCC's Recreation Division is a great starting point for people new to canoeing and kayaking. The club provides the boats, paddles and safety equipment that members need to get on the river. The SCC subsidizes introductory canoeing and kayaking lessons so that members new to the sport can acquire the basic knowledge and skills they need to be safe on the water. The club hosts twice-weekly informal group paddle sessions where novice paddlers, and those new to the city, can learn from more experienced paddlers and get to know the local paddling community.

The SCC has partnered with The Blind Adventurer Foundation to form the Blind Paddling Program. In operation since 2019, the program is a way for people who are blind or who have low vision to get on the water in a canoe or kayak, accompanied by a

sighted guide, and experience a fun, physical activity that many would not otherwise have the opportunity to take part in. In a further effort to make paddling more accessible, last year the club installed equipment on the boathouse dock to provide hand-holds and help stabilize boats while members with limited mobility are getting into or out of them.

Recreation Division volunteers organize and lead paddling/camping trips to explore Saskatchewan's world-class lakes and rivers. SCC trips in recent years have visited the Reindeer River, Churchill River, Wapiskau River, North Saskatchewan River, South Saskatchewan River and more. In keeping with its desire to make paddling accessible and affordable, the SCC does not charge members any fees for equipment used on club trips.

Marathon Division

The SCC's Marathon Division attracts paddlers of all ages and levels who are looking for paddling efficiency, fitness and community. Group paddles take place twice a week from May to September and involve active coaching by NCCP-certified Marathon Coaches. Many members also train on their own.

The Division owns about 22 C1 and C2 canoes, most of which are carbon or kevlar racing boats. All equipment needed by members is offered by the Division, and members have full access to the boathouse all season so they may train outside of group paddle times.

The Marathon Division hosts three races each season which are usually attended by provincial racers plus paddlers from Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia and Ontario. Paddling clinics are offered at most of these races and are open to all who attend.

There are many members who do not race and those who only race local events, but over the past few decades some members have competed internationally to great success. Members Trevor Robinson, Edith MacHattie and Graham Smith have all won first place in their categories in the Triple Crown races which take place each season in New York, Michigan and Quebec and are considered the most elite Marathon races in North America. Member Ivan English and his partner Mike Vincent won the 715 km Yukon River Quest in 2019 and Edith MacHattie was ranked top female marathon paddler in North America in 2016 according to the North American Canoe Paddler Ranking system.

The mission of the Marathon Division is to maintain a community of paddlers who wish to improve their paddling skills and efficiency, and to create a pathway for those interested in competing provincially, nationally and internationally.

By the Numbers

1. 1512 Average SCC membership 2016-2021 (2020 excluded due to the pandemic)
2. 219 Free SCC child memberships in 2021
3. Seasonal employees in 2021
4. 9639 Person-hours of SCC canoe and kayak use on the river in Saskatoon in 2021
5. 97 Participants on SCC club trips in 2021
6. 74 Canoes and kayaks owned by the SCC