

Loading Your Boat

- Load your gear first. Be sure not to **overload** your boat.
- Never launch in waters that look **unsafe** to swim in.



Canoes:

1. Board your **canoe** only when it is fully supported by the water.

Correct



Incorrect



2. The paddler who will be seated in the back of the canoe boards first.

3. Stay low. Keep three points of contact at all times.



Always stay low, move slow, and keep three points of contact when loading and unloading your boat.

Kayaks

1. Before putting your kayak in the water, adjust the seat and **foot braces**.
2. If possible, load your kayak when it is fully supported by the water.
3. Use your paddle to steady the **kayak** as you enter. Rest the paddle across the rim of the cockpit. Grip the center of the paddle as you enter.



Always stay low, move slow, and keep three points of contact when loading and unloading your boat.

Unloading Your Boat

1. Unload one person at a time.
2. Never try to unload at an unsafe location.
3. Follow the same rules you use when loading your boat. Remember to stay low, move slow, and keep three points of contact.

