Soft Gear and Boat Talk Outline

Soft Gear:
Depending on the flow of the trip, the soft gear part of this talk can take place at a separate time or location. The Trip Leader should decide how they would like this flow to work.

1. Spray Skirt:
   a. Worn under or over PFD to protect from waves
   b. Appropriate height and instructions for adjusting
2. Splash Jacket: Not required, though nice in windy, rainy, or wavy conditions
3. Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
   a. Demonstrate how to put on and adjust the PFD
   b. Demonstrate how tightly the PFD should fit
   c. Demonstrate how to test the PFD
   d. Emphasize that a Guide must check every person’s PFD

Parts of the Boat:
1. Carrying Handle/Toggle
   a. Emphasize the importance of carrying boats in groups of 4 to 6
2. Deck Bungees
   a. Used for storing items that you would like accessible though can get wet (i.e. water bottles and sunscreen).
3. Cockpit and seat
4. Rudder

Entering, Exiting, and Sitting in the Boat:
1. Getting in and out
   a. Sitting on the boat behind the cockpit, the sliding feet into boat
   b. Remind participants never to stand in the boat
2. Attaching skirt
   a. Attaching the skirt around the combing, starting with the back
   b. Removing the spray skirt and the importance of having the loop of the skirt out
3. Sitting
   a. Proper leg position (frog style, with legs bent under and knees under combing)
4. Use of foot pegs
   a. Adjusting foot pegs (both front and back and both types)
   b. Back foot pegs control the rudder
   c. Push foot peg on the side of the desired direction of turn
5. Wet-exit:
   a. Smile and remain calm.
   b. Feel down torso to find combing
   c. Follow coming to front to find loop
   d. Grab loop and pull forward then up
   e. Push out of boat
   f. Hold on to the boat and do not turn it over.

Tips
- Cover soft gear before other topics.
- During the boat talk, start at the bow and work your way to the stern.
- Demonstrate the proper way to sit while sitting in the sand outside of the boat.