

## 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.