



Birthday Party Information

Parties run about 2 hours, during which the children learn how to kayak through playing games. The party starts at the store where the guides get to know the children, especially their names, and go over what to expect. They then move to the dock where they talk about equipment, weather & tide conditions, any potential hazards, and get outfitted. Dock hands load them into their kayaks and direct them to the guides who are waiting on the water. Once they are all on the water they paddle upriver playing the following games:

- finding the treasure bottles
- pinning the tail on the kayak
- dock ducking
- sponge fights
- gondolier
- rafting up
- boat swapping
- swimming (optional - but always come prepared to get wet!) and bring a change of clothes

They learn about the gear

- What to wear, lifejackets, good footwear, sunscreen, hats, water wicking clothing (vs cotton)
- Paddles – how to hold
- Boats – doubles vs singles, how to get in and out, how to STAY in, balance

About the environment and the conditions they'll be paddling in

- wind
- tides
- weather
- safety

Skills they'll learn

- forward
- backwards
- sideways
- circles
- stopping

Children should come prepared to get wet!

What to bring:

- Swimsuit
- Watershoes
- Sunscreen
- Hats and sunglasses with croakies (optional)
- Towel
- Change of clothes
- Drinks – recommend water bottles, we sell for \$5, refillable Downunder bottles.
- Waivers – each parent must sign a waiver

Party Details

Message in a Bottle:

During the party the children will be searching for 'messages in bottles'. Each message will guide them to a place, or in an activity.

Party Favors: if you'd like to include party favors a replica of the treasure bottle with a small gift inside (e.g. shark tooth necklace for boys, puka shells for girls – or some other gift of your choosing that fits). When they return to the dock the guides will give them a clue as to where the treasure is. You may also bring your own goody bags to hide. The cost for the treasure bottle itself is \$5, the necklaces range from \$8-\$15, less 25%.

Photos:

We take photos where possible (waterproof camera), and encourage parents to come and take photos from the dock, or upper deck as well. If you'd like something more professional, we have a photographer available.

Food: The Rowayton Market is directly above our shop and can provide cake and other food for your party. They allow small groups to use the deck at off-peak times. Ordinarily the deck is \$400 to rent (\$350 for Downunder clients). It is best to check with the chef when making your arrangements (203) 852-3660.

Other Food options:

- Ice-cream at Brenden's 101
- Pizza at Rowayton Pizza
- Picnic lunch at Pinkney park – the Rowayton Market can provide a picnic lunch package

Pricing: is based on number and type of kayaks (singles are \$38 doubles are \$48), number of guides (ratio usually 1-4, first guide \$80, additional guides \$60), program fee of \$10pp and guide tips. We would be happy to prepare a proposal for you and send it over. Call the office for a quote (203) 247-0578.

Reservations and Cancellations:

To reserve we just need a credit card #. The number is not charged until the day of the event, and you can choose a different form of payment at that time if you wish. Cash/Checks are always appreciated on the day. The cancellation policy is two weeks, with 48 hours notice to change numbers. Less than two weeks 50% is non refundable. Cancellation within 48 hours, there is no refund. In poor weather a credit will be issued towards another date or kayak rentals for that year, or a 75% refund given.

Waivers:

Parents must sign a waiver before their children can go out paddling. If the parent is not present, the party organizer may sign as their guardian. Waivers and this information sheet are provided to the party organizer who can then email the parents directly.