

RIVER SIGNALS

Common Hand, Paddle and River Signals



ALL CLEAR

Come on down

Proceed. Hand or paddle raised straight up vertically. When visual communication is not possible, one whistle blow.



I'M OKAY

Are you okay?

While holding the elbow outward toward the side, repeatedly pat the top of your head. This signal is used both as a question and as a response to indicate you are not badly injured or in immediate danger. If not okay, don't make this signal.



EDDY OUT

Get to side of the river

Swirling motion with a single finger or paddle in the air, then pointed to the side of the river (river left or right) with the eddy. Should be done well in advance of need.



POINT POSITIVE

"Move that way"

Point in the direction a river runner should travel. Never point at an obstacle. Always point to the safe direction to travel.



HELP/EMERGENCY

Assistance needed

Give three long blasts on a rescue whistle while waving in a crossing motion with arms over your head. If a whistle is not available, make three loud whooping tones.



SCOUT

Look at rapid

Get to shore for a look. Two fingers pointing to your eyes, then to the side of the river where the scout should take place.



STOP

Potential hazard ahead

Wait for "all clear" signal before proceeding. Form a horizontal bar with your outstretched arms or paddle held horizontally. Pump arms or paddle to attract attention.



SWIMMER

Person in the water

Freestyle swimming motion with arms. Used to notify the rest of the group there is a party member out of their craft and currently in the water.



PORTAGE

Walk around

Two fingers used to imitate legs walking. Signals a mandatory portage. After signaling, point to the side of the river the portage should take place.