

Boat Ramp Etiquette

Clothing: Change in your clothes a secluded spot, the bathrooms if available, or in your vehicle. The public does not want to see nudity. Change before unloading your vehicle and change after watercraft is loaded to avoid blocking launch.

Common Courtesy: It's a public boat ramp, there are usually others waiting to launch or take out. Be prepared to put your watercraft in the water and move out of the way. Same applies for take-out, don't block the ramp. Just because you're there first, doesn't mean everyone has to wait for you. Finish your final preparations away from the ramp. Boaters do it, you should too. That is one of the biggest complaints about paddlers using boat ramps, they tie it up. Get in, get out of the way and vice versus. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

Launch Rules: Read the signs. Most parks don't allow alcohol or pets. Follow the rules.

Litter: Place your trash in appropriate containers or take it home with you. Police the area before leaving. Pick up a piece of trash that is not yours. If everyone did this, the ramp and waterways would stay clean.

Noise and Profanity: Although it may be a public boat ramp, there are others there using the facilities or live nearby. Keep the music, horseplay, and profanity down.

Parking: Try to park away from the ramp and if possible, double or triple up on the parking. Do not park in areas designated for vehicles with trailers.

Preparation: Prep your gear in the parking area, not on the ramp. On the ramp is not the time to start waterproofing your gear. Be prepared.

Put-in: Don't block the put-in while waiting for your shuttle vehicle to return. Stay out of the way. Put your watercraft in the water, load it and move out of the way. Make final adjustments after moving out of the way. Unload only one vehicle at a time to avoid congestion. Don't turn your watercraft sideways to load and block the launch if others are waiting.

Swimming or Wading: Don't block the ramp with your bodies. Swim or wade out to the side of the ramp.

Take-out: Don't block the ramp while waiting for your shuttle. Unload your gear and stow it out of the way, same with the watercraft. Load only one vehicle at a time to avoid congestion.

Trespassing: Respect the rights of private property owners. Don't go on the property of people's homes and businesses. Don't go onto the property of commercial paddling businesses if you are not paying for their services. If with a group and you're not using the outfitter, don't hang around, leave your vehicle, try to sneak on the bus, use the facilities or launch. You chose to do your own thing, you're not a customer.

Conclusion

Be nice. Be considerate. And paddling and paddlers will be welcome to the area and waterway.