



## REQUIREMENTS & TIPS FOR SELF-SUPPORT KAYAK TRIPS IN GRAND CANYON

To maximize your limited room and lighten your weight, here are some clarifications from the Lees Ferry rangers on a few specific items from page 29 of the Noncommercial River Trip Regulations:

### P. 29 (APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF REQ. PAPERWORK & EQUIPMENT)

- **Paper Work**
  - **Noncommercial River Trip Regulations** – Besides the permit, participant list, photo ID's, checkout sheet & incident report forms, printed copies of the full regulations are required. They will not allow a PDF on a smart phone.
- **Kitchen and Sanitation**
  - **Fine-mesh Screen (for straining food particles)** - Yes, a strainer is required. A small one will do as it is understood most stuff is boiled in the bag and thrown away. Small reusable coffee filters, paint filters, or fine mesh screens are OK. Though the rangers don't particularly like it, pantyhose can be used to strain the food through - strain the water, tie a knot, cut it off, throw it away and do it again and again.
  - **Metal Fire Pan and Elevating Legs** - Firepans are required from November 1 to the end of February. There was a time when it was impractical to carry a firepan in a kayak, so it was possible to get it waived. However, due to new product designs and advancements in lightweight breakdown products, the rangers will not waive the requirement anymore for winter trips. If you are more than one kayak, you can distribute the parts & pieces among the boats. *Ceiba has a lightweight, breakdown firepan.*
  - **Fire Blanket** – Required from November 1 to the end of February. *Ceiba has a lightweight fire blanket.*
  - **Main River Toilet System & Alternative Day Use Toilet System** – (See next page)
  - **Water Filter** - Chemical purification treatment products are OK to use in lieu of a mechanical filtration system.
  - **Hand Wash System** - There really isn't a definition of a hand wash "system" so the rangers have let a bar/liquid soap, hand sanitizer, and the river be the "system" in lieu of a 5-gallon plastic bucket hand wash system. In addition to soap they strongly recommend hand sanitizer.
- **General Trip Gear**
  - **First-aid Kit (Major & Minor)** – Each kayak must carry a decent first aid kit per Suggested First Aid Items on Pages 21-22 of the regs
  - **Signal Mirror (Air Force Type)** – One is required
  - **Signal Panels: 2 at 3' x 8'** – One set up is required. The material must be pre-cut to the indicated dimensions. We recommend buying a cheap 6' x 8' plastic orange tube tent and cutting it in to 2 pieces that can be made into a cross
- **Raft / Kayak Gear**
  - **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) of Type I, III or V** – 1 spare per 1-10 kayaks
  - **Boat Patching and Repair Kit** - For a kayak repair kit, we recommend repair glue, strong tape, a strip of Bituthene waterproof membrane (a roofing material), Aquaseal for spray skirt and a multi-tool
  - **Spare Kayak Paddle (1 per 4 kayaks)** – 1 spare per 1-4 kayaks

## Toilet System Info and Tips

- *Ceiba has poop tubes and wag bags!*  
18" x 4" pvc tubes (most popular) or 32" x 4" pvc tubes
- The NPS requires 40 cubic inches of storage per day. On average, you can estimate 2" of length per day with a 4" diameter tube
  - Conservative estimate for the 18" tube is 8 days (4-5 wag bags) for one person. You could potentially fit 9-10 days if you manage it well
  - Conservative estimate for the 32" tube is 15 days (8-10 wag bags) for one person. You could potentially fit 16-18 days if you manage it well
- You can almost always get 2 days use per single wag bag
  - Make sure to frost the "doughnuts" with the supplied powder to cut down on odor & absorb moisture
  - It is important that when the wag bag is full and tied up that you cut off the remaining tail of the bag to maximize tube storage capacity. Dispose of cut tail in your trash system
- Make sure that the lid of the tube is sealed correctly and that you cannot pull it out without loosening the wingnut
- In high volume long-boats like the Jackson Karma RG, the tube can be carried in the cockpit behind the seat back strap or in the stern hatch
- In lower volume boats, tubes can be strapped outside on top of the stern or in the cockpit alongside the pillar

If you are planning on doing a long self-support kayak trip in Grand Canyon, give us a call at 928.527.0171 so we can talk in detail about getting you on the water with the minimum amount of hassle!