

Sebago Canoe Clubs Young People's Open Paddle Program

Sebago Canoe Club is very excited to announce that starting this summer A **“Young People's Open Paddle Program”** will begin for 10-16 yr olds of New York City.

This NEW program will offer FREE kayaking trips into Jamaica Bay (part of the New York Estuary) and introduce the youths to kayaking and the environment. This program will be “in addition” to Sebago's regular “Open Paddle Program which will run from May 31, 2008 until August 30, 2008

Sebago wants to thank The New York City Environmental Fund for providing lead funding for this program.

This program fosters a relationship with the delicate but thriving tidal wetlands in respectful, low-impact forms of boating. We feel these experiences are critical to creating a strong connection between young people in the surrounding community and the local wetlands. Only by educating the young can we hope to produce the future protectors of the environment.

Young Peoples Open Paddles will be conducted on specific weekdays **during the summer of 2008**. Organized youth groups such as Boy and Girl Scout troops along with Explorer troops and youth groups from local churches and synagogues will be invited to participate. Established youth organizations like the Flatbush Development Corporation and Canarsie Adolescent Recreational Program Inc. have already expressed interest in this program.

A key component in creating youth connection to the environment will be to educate them on the environment under the guise of recreational paddling. We will provide them with a list of local and national environmental resources along with conservation, boating and environmental literature for FREE that they can take with them when they leave the club. On trips where there are guest environmental lecturers, the group will listen to an informative environmental talk while paddling with further discussion happening back at the club after the paddle

Sebago has been holding formal “Open Paddles” for the last 6 years and informally for many years before that.

Leaders are well-trained, safety-certified volunteer club kayakers and canoeists. The young people will be given brief boating instruction and safety information on the land. The leader and co-leader or leaders then guide them into Jamaica Bay for an introduction to the wetland habitat of Gateway National Recreation Area and man-powered boating.

Sebago's primary mission is to educate and train the public in paddlesports, water safety, conservation and protection of clean water and waterways. To encourage aquatic recreation and systematic physical exercise through paddlesports, and conduct educational classes on the safe use of canoes, kayaks, sailboats, rowing sculls and other man-powered boats and to cooperate in such education and instruction with other groups having similar objectives. Sebago is a community of man-powered boaters who are environmental advocates and activists.

If your group would be interested in paddling in Jamaica Bay and learning about the environment, please contact: Phil Giller phil.giller@gmail.com

For additional information please **see our website: www.sebagocanoecub.org**

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