

How Shuttles Work

Beginning paddlers often are uncertain about how shuttles work and what is expected of the drivers.

There are two types of shuttles on each club trip.

First, there is the shuttle from the meeting place to the stream. You should have a full tank of gasoline and have made any other stops for purchases before arriving at the meeting place. The shuttle will leave at the time given in the trip write-up so be there at least 15 minutes early for instructions by the trip leader about the route to be taken. During the shuttle trip keep the driver behind you in view. Slow down and wait if they get caught by a red light or traffic. Try to keep within sight of the driver in front of you. He or she will be looking out for you also. By following these rules the shuttle caravan will get to the stream quickly and safely...and no one will get lost.

The **second** type of shuttle is between the put-in and the take-out points. The purpose of this shuttle is to leave most of the vehicles at the take-out where the trip ends and then bring all drivers back to the put-in to start the paddle. When you get to the put-in quickly unload your boat and gear; and be ready to shuttle your vehicle to the take-out. You can arrange the gear in your boat when you return to the put-in. Only drivers should go on this shuttle to minimize the number of vehicles needed on the return trip from the take-out. You will ride back to the put-in with the other drivers. As before, follow the rules for keeping the following vehicle in sight.

After the paddle the people whose vehicles are back at the put-in will need a ride. If your vehicle is back at the put-in you will ride with these people. Be sure to look for that ride as soon as you haul your boat onto land at the take-out. Someone will be there to watch your gear. Be sure to keep your car keys with you at all times...on the paddle trip and on all shuttles.

Reverse Shuttles Sometimes it is more efficient to go to the take-out first...this is called a “reverse shuttle.” The trip leader will tell you about this plan at the meeting place. A few vehicles will be left at the take-out to be used after the paddle for shuttling drivers back to their vehicles at the put-in. This means that you will need a ride back to the put-in. Again, only drivers should ride in this shuttle. Remember to have your keys with you. Once you get your vehicle you will follow the shuttle back to the take-out where you will load your boat and gear.

Going Home After the paddle when everyone is ready to leave, each driver is expected to be able to find their way home. If you are not sure how to get to a main road, ask the trip leader or someone familiar with the area. Usually there is someone going your way and you can follow them. If you have questions always ask...we don't want anyone to get lost. – Wes Mosteller