

Weather Policy

First and foremost, *paddling is a wilderness experience* so we do expect you to have rain gear and be prepared. We will not come pick you up early from your trip simply because it has started raining and you've failed to prepare.

If you decide to cancel within 7 days of your start date because of rain in the forecast, Wisconsin River Outings will provide you with a same season paddle credit. You can then reschedule your trip at a later date, based on availability.

Providing you arrive at our location on the day of your reservation, if there is lightning at 12 PM (Noon) on the day of your departure, we will not put you on the water and we will give you a full refund. If you cancel over the phone, we will give you a same season paddle credit only. Rain is not a reason to refund your trip.

Once your trip has begun, there are no refunds or credits.

High Water Policy

There are times in the Spring as well as during wet summers when, for safety, we will not put people on the river. The following are the parameters we use on the morning of your trip for not putting people on the river during high water:

Single Day Rentals: USGS readings at Muscoda of 20,000 cf/s

Multiday Rentals: USGS readings at Muscoda of 15,000 cf/s

These readings can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey website, www.usgs.gov. If you need further assistance, please email or call and we'd be happy to help you.

Lightning Safety Tips

The Following Lightning Safety Guidelines Have Been Adapted and Excerpted from "The National Outdoor Leadership Schools Wilderness Guide" by Mark Harvey (1999)

1. Stay off high peaks and ridges. The higher you are, the greater the chance of getting struck.
2. Stay away from shallow caves and overhangs. Although they may look safe, the electricity can jump these small gaps and electrocute you.
3. Stay away from lone, tall objects like single trees in an open field. They are likely to be hit, and you could be hit by the ground current. If you can't avoid this situation, then crouch in the "cone of protection". Project a line from the lone object, often a tree, at a 45 degree angle. This forms an imaginary circle around the object that you should stay at.
4. Avoid metal objects and bodies of water. They are good conductors and can attract lightning. This includes metal pack frames, trekking poles, aluminum canoes, tent poles, etc.
5. If you are in a group, separate yourselves by at least 30 feet. That way, others can give first aid if one person is struck. If you stay in one big bunch, then there will be nobody to help if you all get struck.
6. Avoid wide open spaces. You are at a greater risk of being struck if you are the only thing around. The best place to be during a lightning storm is in a large group of trees.
7. Assume the Lightning position by insulating yourself from the ground with your sleeping pad. This will help with ground current, which is what kills most people in lightning-related accidents. Crouch on this pad with your toes pointing downhill and your heels together. This will allow the current to run through your feet rather than your whole body in the event that the ground current finds you.