

Introduction to Coastal Navigation

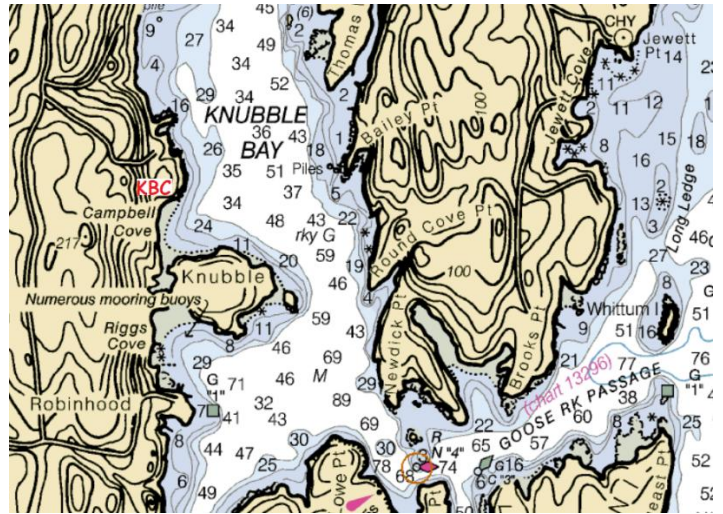
AMC Knubble Bay Camp, June 12-14, 2026 (Arrive Friday Night)

COST: \$250 (AMC members)
\$285 (non-members)

LODGING: Friday night and Saturday night

MEALS: Saturday breakfast & dinner,
Sunday breakfast

This is an introductory course on coastal kayak navigation. The focus is on learning the fundamentals of coastal navigation and developing the "hands on" skills required for the advanced beginner to intermediate sea kayaker to safely navigate in coastal waters. You will also have a lot of fun!



Upon successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the features of and use a baseplate compass.
- Use a compass to orient a nautical chart.
- Use a compass to determine the bearing to a visible location/object.
- Given the bearing to a visible location/object, use a compass to "point" to the visible location/object.
- Use a compass to maintain a course heading.
- Understand the difference between as well as work with magnetic North & true North.
- Understand and use the key information provided on a nautical chart.
- Determine the course bearing between two points on a nautical chart.
- Understand the difference between, as well as work with statute miles and nautical miles.
- Determine the distance between two points on a nautical chart.
- Understand how wind, tides and current affect coastal paddling.
- Understand and use aids to navigation, e.g., buoys.
- Use a compass and chart to determine your present location.

The course consists of four learning components:

- Four hours of self-paced on-line learning prior to the weekend at KBC.
- Three hours of hands-on skills practice Saturday morning at KBC.
- Seven hours of "on water" paddling fun and navigation practice Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.
- Over the weekend, there will be ample opportunities to ask questions and receive one-on-one help from the two instructors.

¹Weekend Schedule:



KBC is an oceanfront post & beam cabin located at 144 Jewett Road, Georgetown, Maine. Please arrive Friday night between 4:30 PM and 9:00 PM. You can sleep in the upstairs bunk room or bring a tent and sleep outside. Bring your own bedding. There are tent platforms and ample level ground for tents. Friday dinner you are on your own. There are many places to eat in Bath and Georgetown. [Here are a few.](#) Or you can bring food to prepare your dinner in the kitchen.

A hearty home cooked breakfast will be served at 7:00 AM Saturday. The program will begin at 8:00 in the cabin with a brief review of the on-line learning material, followed by hands on exercises. Lunch at the cabin (bring your own lunch) and kayaks launched by 12:30 PM. Afternoon paddle with navigation exercises; return to the cabin by 4:30. Socialize, snacks and beverages (bring your own), followed by one of

One of KBC's legendary dinners at 6:30 PM. Another hearty home cooked breakfast Sunday at 7:00 AM and launch kayaks by 8:30 AM. Fun paddle with more navigation practice. Return to the cabin by 12:30 for lunch (bring your own lunch). Pack up your things and please help us with cleaning the cabin so everyone can leave by 2:00 PM.

Important:

The program is open to Level 1, 2, and 3 sea kayakers. Our weekend programs are designed to be fun but safety is our primary concern. You must have prior experience kayaking on the ocean to participate in this program. Also, please honestly assess your skills using AMC KBC's definitions of Level 1, 2, and 3 sea kayaking to determine if you are at least a level 1 paddler.

Level 1 = Advanced Beginner Level 2 = Intermediate Level 3 = Advanced

Experience with and capable of:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Trip Distance (miles)	5-7	8-13	14-22
Time on Water (hours)	3-4	4-5	5-7
Time Between Breaks (hours)	up to 1.5	up to 2	up to 2.5
Avg. Paddling Speed (knots/hour)	1.5 - 2.5	2-3	3-4
Wind Speed (knots)	Less than 10	Up to 15	Up to 20
Waves (feet)	Less than 1.5'	Up to 3'	Up to 5'
Typical Current (knots)	Less than 1	Up to 2	Up to 3
Distance from shore (miles)	Less than 0.5	Up to 1	Up to 2
Required Minimum Rescue Skills [desired but not required]	wet exit [assisted re- entry]	all Level 1 plus self-rescue [rescue others]	all Level 2 plus in rough seas [towing]

¹Subject to change as needed.

Gear - Sea Kayak:

A bona fide **sea kayak** suitable for paddling in the ocean and a minimum of 14' in length is required. If you need a sea kayak for the weekend, a local outfitter can rent you everything you need (boat, sprayskirt, paddle, pfd, wet suit, etc.), and will deliver to the camp and pick up afterwards. Call Seaspray Kayaking at 207-404-1100, or www.seaspraykayaking.com Make sure you say you are on the AMC trip at Knubble Bay Camp and they'll give you a discount. If you have questions about whether your kayak is suitable for this program, email the program leader at: information@amckbc.org

Gear - Needed When paddling:

Cockpit sprayskirt

²Wetsuit or drysuit (optional)

A dry bag of extra layers (fleece/poly)
to stow in your kayak

Bug repellent

³Sunglasses

Snacks

PFD (personal flotation device)

Whistle on a string attached to your PFD

Dry bag for other personal items (optional)

Sunscreen

Water bottle

Hiker's baseplate compass

Other Items to Bring:

AMC Knubble Bay Camp (KBC) is an oceanfront property with a post & beam cabin and is located in Georgetown, ME. KBC is "off the grid experience." No electricity except solar power and batteries to power the lights on the cabin's main floor and no wi-fi. There are two composting toilet bathrooms in the cabin and two outhouses outside. No running water but two hand pumped wells outside the cabin. ME. If you haven't already taken a [visual tour of the KBC](#), please do so now.

Flashlight and/or headlamp

Pillow

Sleeping bag

Two lunches

Snacks & beverages

Towel

Water bottle

⁵Cooler & ice

⁶Hiker's baseplate compass

Paper, pencil, and ruler for course exercises.

⁷(optional) Solar shower water bag

²The local ocean temperature in June averages 55° to 60°. Sometimes a wet suit shorty is appropriate. Always dress for the water temp, not the air temp. Please watch this short video on what to wear while paddling: <https://paddling.com/learn/what-to-wear> Wetsuits can also be rented.

³If you need "readers" to read a chart, bring them or bring sunglasses with bifocal readers.

⁴Please bring a cooler for your snacks and beverages; there is not enough room in the fridge.

⁵Please bring a baseplate compass for the dry land and on water exercises (see picture above).

⁶There is an enclosed outdoor shower stall where you can take a "solar shower."

Additional Information:

- If after reading this you have any questions, please email the Registrar: registrar@amckbc.org
- To reserve your spot for this exciting and educational weekend, please complete the registration form.
- The KBC Volunteer Committee would greatly appreciate it if you would please volunteer to assist with meal preparation/clean-up for at least one of the three meals we will be providing and also for cabin clean-up at the end of the weekend.
- You will be using your baseplate compass for the on the water exercise so a kayak deck compass is not required. However, if you have one, bring it.
- We will be loaning you an 8½" x 11" color laminated photocopy of a portion of the nautical chart that includes the area where we will be paddling. You don't need to purchase a chart, but should you want a chart of the area, one option is a free printable chart from NOAA: <https://amckbc.org/nautical-charts> Another option is to purchase a chart <http://www.richardsoncharts.com/product/boothbay-region-waterproof-chart/>
- The program will be held "rain or shine".
- On the water, participants are required to wear a PFD at all times and to have their sprayskirt secured to their cockpit.
- After you register for the course, more information will be emailed to you, including the instructions on accessing the on-line learning materials to be completed prior to the program weekend.
- Please contact the registrar at registrar@amckbc.org BEFORE completing and sending the registration form and payment, or if you have any questions.