

Outfitter/Guides

FAQ's

What Constitutes an Outfitter/Guide?

- **Anyone that provides outdoor recreational activities and gets compensation or monetary gain is guiding. Activities can include, but are not limited to: boating, angling, hunting, pack trips, jeep touring, mountain climbing, camping, backpacking, whitewater float trips, kayak trips.**

What Does Not Constitute Guiding?

- **Governmental agencies, people solely operating on land that they own or control and private colleges and universities are exempt from the Outfitter/Guide registration requirement. Exemptions do NOT include fishing, hunting, backcountry or whitewater schools.**

What are the basic requirements for this program?

- **A minimum of \$300,000 general liability insurance.**
- **First aid and CPR certification.**
- **A \$5,000 surety bond if they collect deposits in excess of \$100 per person.**
- **An application and affidavit completed yearly.**
- **Yearly renewal fee.**
- **A valid Coast Guard license if operating on federally navigable waterways in Oregon. The Coast Guard license must be valid for the area in which they are guiding with a motorized boat.**
- **A signed Training and Experience Affidavit if the guide is operating on Class III Whitewater or above with a non-motorized boat.**

What types of registrations can guides apply for?

- **Sole Proprietor and Corporate.**
- **Sole Proprietor registrations list the individual and their business name on the applications while Corporate registrations only list the entity name. All business names must be registered through the Oregon Secretary of State's office prior to registering with the Marine Board.**

How do I know if an Outfitter/Guide is registered?

- **Outfitter/Guides in the state of Oregon are issued registration cards that are required to be carried with them at all times while guiding and presented to any peace officer upon demand.**
- **Outfitter/Guide registration can now be checked by calling the Marine Board at 503-378-2519.**

When are decals required for guide boats?

- **Any boats used in a guided service are required to display decals.**
- **Decals are provided in three types, motorized, non-motorized and raft.**
- **Guides that Charter the Lower Columbia River (LCR) below the Longview, Washington bridge are required to display the LCR Charter decals.**
- **Guides operating non-motorized boats used in the Outfitter/Guide business that display identifying numbers, letters, or decals issued by another governmental agency are exempt from the display of an Outfitter/Guide decal.**
- **Boats operated exclusively by the client of an Outfitter/Guide are exempt from the decal requirement.**

What equipment requirements apply to motorized guide boats?

- **Motorized guide boats are required to have the same equipment as pleasure boaters and have additional requirements set forth by the United States Coast Guard.**

What are the requirements for guiding on Class III Whitewater with non-motorized boats?

- **All guides and employees of guides and clients must wear Life Jackets.**
- **All guides and employees of guides must have specific safety training.**
- **All non-motorized boats must be equipped with a rescue throw bag.**

What is the difference between a guide subcontractor and guide employees?

- **Persons working as subcontractors for outfitter/guides must have their own outfitter/guide registration. Employees do not.**
- **Subcontractors are their own employer. They pay their own payroll taxes. The employer pays these taxes for the employees. List employees only on your**

outfitter/guide affidavit. When hiring a subcontractor, check to make sure their outfitter/guide registration is current.

What laws govern the guide program?

- **Oregon Revised Statutes; Chapter 704 and Oregon Administrative Rules; 250-016-0001 through 250-016-0014 cover Oregon Outfitter/Guides.**