Be safe out there!

Wear a life jacket! They really do save lives. It won’t work if you don’t wear it.

Don’t boat under the influence For your safety, don’t use alcohol or drugs on the water.

Watch for hazards On rivers, hazards like dams, fences, snags, rocks, and bridge abutments may be present. Dams and snags in particular can be killers. Avoid them!

Plan to get wet! You may capsize, so dress for the weather. When the water and/or weather get cold, warm-when-wet clothing and a wetsuit are needed.

Stay legal!

Camping on sandbars is allowed only downstream of the City of Maquoketa on the rivers in this guide. Most areas along the rivers upstream of Maquoketa are privately owned—these waters are navigable, but you must respect private property.

Littering is a crime – pack out everything you bring in. Report littering or dumping by calling 888-NOLITTR.

Resources

Water trails and recent listing of canoe/kayak rivers
www.iowadnr.gov/watertrails/

River gages
waterdata.usgs.gov or www.rivergages.com