



## SKGABC Spring Guides Exchange 2026 Workshop Leaders



### **Daye Hagel**

Daye Hagel (previously Daye Cooper) is a wife, mother, and SKGABC Level Three guide with a lifelong passion for the ocean. Over thousands of days of seasonal guiding work since 2004, she specialized in leadership development and eco-therapy, working with organizations such as Strathcona Park Lodge, Island Escapades, SKILS, and Outward-Bound Canada.

Daye is also a Canadian Certified Counsellor with degrees in counselling psychology, anthropology, and religious studies. Her areas of clinical focus have included working with First Nations communities and in remote areas. In 2018 she founded Mental Health Wilderness First Aid, which offers mental health skills training for folks who live, work, or play in remote settings. She has no spare time anymore since she and her husband now have three wonderful young sons; however, "in her spare time" you can also find her indulging her passion for amateur astronomy and running local workshops on orienting to time and space using the ancient information in the night sky.



### **Jack Rosen**

Jack Rosen has worked in the outdoor industry since 1988 and helped shape the early foundations of the SKGABC, including writing the first GEMS for the Guides Alliance, now part of the Guide Manual and Certification Standards. He has extensive experience in wilderness programming, including 10 years working with young offenders, leading a school board wilderness counselling program on Salt Spring Island and his own companies for 35 years.

A Level 4 Guide, Trainer, and Examiner, Jack has also served on the SKGABC board and chaired the Certification Committee. He ran Island Escapades /Coastal Current Adventures for years and has led expeditions from Salt Spring to Alaska and taught from Patagonia to Haida Gwaii. Passionate about paddling and environmental stewardship, Jack continues to run guide training, outdoor education programs, youth camps, and expeditions in British Columbia and Alaska.



### **Jo Nicolson**

Jo Nicolson, an avid paddler, is PC Level 4 skills, PC Level 2 Instructor, and Sea Kayak Guide Alliance Guide level 3. She is an educator of grade school kids (the job that pays the bills) and has regularly spent her summers paddling and guiding various locations in BC including Desolation Sound, Gulf Islands, Johnstone Strait/Broughton Archipelago, the North Coast and West Coast of

Vancouver Island, Central Coast, and Haida Gwaii. Jo is also a SSKA Paddle Leader and Instructor.



### **Jordie Allen-Newman**

Jordie is a veteran Sea Kayak and White-Water Instructor and Guide who has worked in the field continuously since 1996. He has circumnavigated Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii, and paddled from Skagway, Alaska to Pacific City, Oregon. His recent adventures include paddling the North Coast of Newfoundland from St Johns to St Anthony's. He is passionate about teaching all skill levels. Jordie uses innovative, engaging methods and enjoys guiding on the rivers, coastline and trails on Vancouver Island.

For the past 4 years he has been a volunteer with the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue and South Island White Water Kayaking Club and works for Shawnigan Lake School Outdoor Education Program and Coastal Bliss Adventures. He is a Level 3 Guide and Level 3 Instructor and a past President and Board Member of the Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC.



### **Kate Hives**

Kate is a highly experienced sea kayaking guide and instructor with over 20 years of global coastal experience, rooted in Vancouver Island. She combines strong technical credentials—including SKILS Coach, SKGABC Trainer/Examiner, Paddle Canada Level-2 Instructor, and British Canoeing 4 Star Sea Leader—with a calm, safety-focused teaching style.

A versatile paddler with a background in surf and longboat kayaking, she now balances part-time instruction with raising her young family, bringing enhanced patience and attentiveness to her work. She is fluent in English and Spanish.



### **Kyle Leis**

Kyle teaches West Point Grey Academy and Norkam Secondary School and Shawnigan Lake School and brings a passion for outdoor exploration, with an Outdoor Adventure Diploma from Algonquin College.

A former kayak guide for Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures, he holds numerous certifications in kayaking, including a SKGABC L3 Guide, paddle boarding, canoeing, and ski and climbing wall instruction. Kyle has a Bachelor of General Studies from Thompson Rivers University and a Bachelor of Education from UBC.



### **Sara Rosen**

Sarah is an AOG guide and oceanography researcher. A passionate and experienced educator, Sarah has worked with over 700 clients and students while leading kayak expeditions, teaching outdoor & environmental education, and, most recently, working as the Community Disaster Awareness Assistant with Strathcona Regional District. She is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with you!