

## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A GOOD SKIPPER?

Winter 2022: Ron Snyder

### "AUTHORITY WITHOUT HUMANITY IS PERCEIVED AS TYRANNY"

THE SKIPPER.....

- Puts the crew's safety first above ALL other considerations, and must never sacrifice safety for the final destination.
- Must listen to their crew, as their thoughts, needs, suggestions, and opinions are important. Skippers are considerate of others.
- Is a teacher of skills, traditions, and a role model for the crew. As such, a skipper must have a deep well of nautical knowledge, canoeing, leadership, and life experiences. A good teacher willingly shares their knowledge, and encourages others to learn.
- Is a leader, who understands what good leadership requires, and from experience knows how to be a good follower.
- A very positive person who can leave their ego, negativity, selfish feelings, tempers, and personal opinions on the beach.
- Has integrity all of the time, and not just when people are watching. They respect their responsibility, and are accountable for their actions.
- Can be trusted. Their actions match their words, and they do not make excuses or blame others for their mistakes.
- Understands that pulling in the canoe, and especially skippering is an honor that has over 12,000 years of history and traditions behind it. The skipper will never do anything to bring shame to that house. Your ancestors are with you all the time.
- Is a cheerleader for the team (canoe family). The skipper is enthusiastic, excited by the possibilities for the future, a good planner, organized, ready and willing to learn new things. They must be attentive to details including every aspect of the canoe journey such as food, shelter, transportation, and the health and welfare of the team.
- A great skipper is a hard worker and fully engaged in every aspect of the journey.

**IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE A JOB DESCRIPTION, YOU'RE RIGHT...IT IS.  
THE PEOPLE WHO SKIPPER A CANOE REPRESENT THE CANOE FAMILY IN  
EVERYTHING THEY SAY AND DO.**

**A SKIPPER MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CANOE FAMILY.**

More simply said:

- ✓ Safety First
- ✓ A good listener
- ✓ A teacher and student
- ✓ A leader
- ✓ Very Positive
- ✓ Has integrity
- ✓ Can be trusted
- ✓ Understands traditions
- ✓ A hard working enthusiastic cheerleader for every aspect of the journey
- ✓ Accountable for their actions