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[Home](#) > [Colleges & Schools](#) > [Graduate School](#) > [Masters Theses](#) > 4750

< [Previous](#)

[Next](#) >



MASTERS THESES

Sensation Seeking Among Experienced Whitewater Kayakers

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Degree Type

Thesis

Degree Name

Master of Science

Major

Recreation and Sport Management

Major Professor

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Committee Members

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Abstract

Whitewater kayaking is an adventure sport that has been continuously growing in popularity (Brymer, 2010). A better understanding of the risk involved could assist programmers, marketers, and decision makers in the future. This study explores sensation seeking in experienced whitewater kayakers. Demographic variables such as age, sex and skill level are studied to make conclusions about risk perception. Kayakers were recruited nation-wide via social media to participate in a survey involving sensation-seeking and demographic questions. The study consisted of 409 participants who completed the self-identifying survey. Past sensation-seeking literature pertaining to adventure sports suggests that there is a correlation between the sensation-seeking trait and risk taking. The findings of this study support the hypothesis that younger experienced kayakers score higher on the sensation-seeking scale and older experienced kayakers. Using SPSS data analysis software, it was discovered that 60.25 percent of respondents scored as high sensation seekers. Of the four subscales within the sensation-seeking scale, the thrill and adventure seeking subscale had the highest scores of 78% sensation seeking. Also, perception of ability and preference of rapid class results indicate that respondents of this study often paddle at or one class above their perceived ability level while whitewater kayaking.

Recommended Citation

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Dagger Nomad Creeking kayak integrates a contour-ergo fitting system. This ensures that the kayakers can steer the kayak effortlessly on the water without risking themselves.

Moreover, it is also very comfortable given the adjustable foot braces, thigh braces, and hip pads. Aside from the price and the shipping fee, the kayaks downfall, though, lies in the absence of storage capacity for belongings. However, high sensation-seeking individuals may experience less stress and may be more resilient and fearless and calm in the face of danger. It's this personality that fuels first responders, Olympic athletes, and adventure travelers. So, there might be something to learn from the thrill-seeking personality. Among those embarking on this research were Marvin Zuckerman and his lab at McGill University in Montreal. In a typical experiment in Zuckerman's lab, participants would spend hours in environments where they could hear or see very little. In some cases, people would sit alone in a dark, sound-dampened room with nothing to do. Sensation seeking is a psychological trait characterized by a search for intense and novel experiences. Marvin Zukerman is one of the first psychologists looking into this concept in great detail. Zukerman developed a scale (Sensation Seeking Scale, SSS, 1971) that he developed over time. Zukerman's scale is one of the most cited, but one can argue that the scale has various issues, as explained by Jeffrey Arnett (1994). One example of an issues is that the Zukerman scale uses dated words, making it less suitable today. Note that even the Arnett scale is more than 20 years old too, though. White water kayaking is the fun sport on fast moving water, typically call white water river. The element of fun and challenge has attracted many people to join this adventure sports in Malaysia. This study examined the risk in ad-venture sport tourism by white water kayakers in Malaysia. The objective of this study is to reveal the injuries suffered by whitewater kayakers during ac-tivity. These whitewater kayaking activities require physical exertion as well as emotional and mental stability. Good practise and skill can help kayakers avoid injuries and accident during paddling session. This sport has been developing and growing each year. Future studies can also be done by looking for new discipline in white water which is "playboating" which may find different risk and injury. Ivester, Lisa Marie, "Sensation Seeking Among Experienced Whitewater Kayakers. " Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, 2017. https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gradthes/4750. This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate School at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. The findings of this study support the hypothesis that younger experienced kayakers score higher on the sensation-seeking scale and older experienced kayakers. Using SPSS data analysis software, it was discovered that 60.25 percent of respondents scored as high sensation seekers.