

The Joys and Sorrows of Kayaking

A Photo Essay by Chantel Walker



Before Salisbury University (SU) students headed out on the water in their kayaks, they fueled their body with snacks, excitement and positive energy. Rachel Taylor, a junior at SU, took this photo of her classmate, Madelyn Granger who is a senior at SU. “I think she was excited to get out there but also tired, so she was trying to get that energy before we started,” Taylor said. Before kayaking, I’m sure Granger never imagined later on saying that “it became a game of bumper boats.”



Alexie Malloy, senior at Salisbury University, shared her excitement with the rest of the students in the group. In this photo taken by Madelyn Granger, the enthusiasm is apparent on her face. “Before kayaking, I was super excited because it's been awhile, but I used to go every summer in camp when I was younger,” Malloy said. Granger captured this moment with anticipation as this grin had spread across Malloy’s face.



Chantel Walker, a senior at Salisbury University, packs up her camera in a Ziploc bag as she waits her turn. “She was just fidgeting and looked like she was anticipating being next in line to get loaded into the boat,” Granger said. She chose to take this photo because they both looked nervous, but the camera chose to focus on Walker. “I was kind of nervous about getting my camera wet, or even flipping over in the water,” Walker said. “At that moment, I was grateful to have that bag.”



Corey Lapres, a junior Communication Arts major at SU, chuckled while kayaking by herself near some classmates. She had finally taken a break after paddling for so long. She just happened to be in the same area where Brooke Reese, another classmate, was feeding a couple of ducks some almonds. “The experience was fun and things were funny,” Lapres said. “I was honestly laughing at everyone's experience.”



Lapres captured this photo as Walker drifted head-first into a thorn bush. “I heard some nervous yelling and Smiley laughing in the backseat, and when I saw that you were too close not to avoid it, I knew to get my camera ready,” Lapres said. Nathaniel Williamson (on the right) felt a sense of disappointment after he realized that he wasn’t doing as well as he thought. “I was like I was finally getting the hang of steering, and then we crash,” he said.



Ashley Reese, junior at Salisbury University, captured this photo of her classmates, Williamson and Walker (from left to right). “I knew I had to capture the good, the bad and the ugly of the trip,” Reese said. Williamson found himself feeling defeated following the crash into the thorn bush. “I think that’s when I was feeling bad about crashing because I wanted to show I was a fun partner to be with,” Williamson said. “I was plotting on how to make the rest of the trip fun and exciting.”



Here is Malloy getting out of the boat at the end of the kayaking trip. Although she felt like getting out of the boat was annoying, she was happy to be getting out of the boat. “The look on my face is a look of sweet relief because I didn’t have to be in the boat anymore,” she said. “I was drenched and cold and ready to go.” As a result of a long ride with so many challenges, Malloy said she will probably never go kayaking again.