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**International Whitewater Hall of Fame Announces  
Partnership with the ACA  
Next ceremony to occur in October 2017**

July 27, 2016 (Fredricksburg, VA) - The International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHoF) has announced a new partnership with the ACA | Canoe-Kayak-SUP-Raft-Rescue, promising enhanced collaboration for its 2017 induction ceremony and beyond.

IWHoF will provide the strategic guidance and organize and run the induction program, including coordinating nominations, elections and induction ceremonies. The ACA will implement outreach and coordinate administrative, website and social media efforts. This includes updating contact information for over 100 IWHoF Affiliate Organizations and over 100 members of the electorate, which includes past inductees, screeners and at-large electors.

“We are excited about this new partnership because it provides implementation assistance and a connection to 30,000 paddlers who are members of ACA to volunteer and help support IWHoF’s efforts,” says IWHoF Board of Governors Chair Risa Shimoda.

The agreement came about after IWHoF’s former non-profit partner, the Paddlesports Industry Foundation, dissolved with the merger of American Outdoors and the Paddlesports Industry Association.

“For the ACA, it broadens our international outreach and shines a light on a part of the paddlesports community that is very much a part of our foundation,” says ACA Chief Operating Officer Christopher Stec. “It should be a great partnership that helps solidify IWHoF and its induction processes and ceremonies.”

Everyone from past award recipients to manufacturers herald the new partnership. “IWHoF has been a great banner-waver for many of the greatest athletes, adventurers, designers and business innovators in paddlesports, and it also advocates heavily for protecting our rivers,” says former inductee Eric Jackson, president of Jackson Kayaks.



“It offers great inspiration for the next generation of paddlers as it learns about the accomplishments of others in eras ahead of them.”

IWHoF plays an important role in the industry by getting the paddling world to take a minute and look at its past, the people who shaped it, and we hope, be inspired to make a difference in the future. Athletes, adventurers, designers, instructors, advocates, and business innovators shape the overall sport of whitewater paddlesports. By recognizing the accomplishments of those who have made the biggest difference, the ACA and IWHoF will be working together to help assure that whitewater will not forget where it came from, and better see where it is going.

IWHoF will hold its next induction ceremony in the Asheville, N.C. area, on October 21, 2017. Also look for IWHoF-related events to be held in conjunction with the ACA’s annual National Paddlesports Conference.

**About IWHoF:** *The International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHoF) is a non-profit educational organization that seeks to recognize and celebrate significant contributions to paddlesports. IWHoF is run by an international Board of Governors, with nominations submitted through IWHoF Affiliates around the world and screened by an international panel. Over 100 members of the IWHoF electorate cast votes in each category to determine the year's honorees. Each year up to two honorees each may be chosen in the categories of Pioneer, Explorer, Champion and Advocate. Info: [www.iwhof.org](http://www.iwhof.org), [iwhof@americancanoe.org](mailto:iwhof@americancanoe.org)*

**About ACA:** *Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation. The ACA has over 30,000 members at both an individual and organizational level and sponsors over 4,300 events each year, including 200 races. The ACA education program has an annual estimated outreach of 800,000 people. For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).*