



Serving paddlers since 1880



The 2024 paddling season is on! Please enjoy the latest edition of the ACA's Monthly Membership Newsletter!



Protect Public Lands and Waters with Proper Funding

Over the last fifteen years, outdoor recreation visits have steadily increased on America's public lands. Over the same time period, real funding for recreation has decreased for land management agencies like the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Adequate funding is one of the biggest obstacles to protecting public land, and it's a problem that doesn't get nearly enough attention.

Right now, Congress is debating the federal budget for the upcoming year. This process, called appropriations, is complex and has huge implications for how our public lands and waters are managed. Budget cuts mean reduced funds for everything from local rangers to trail work to climate science to managing volunteers and coordinating public input. Outdoor Alliance has made it easy to ask your lawmakers to fund recreation on our public lands and waters.

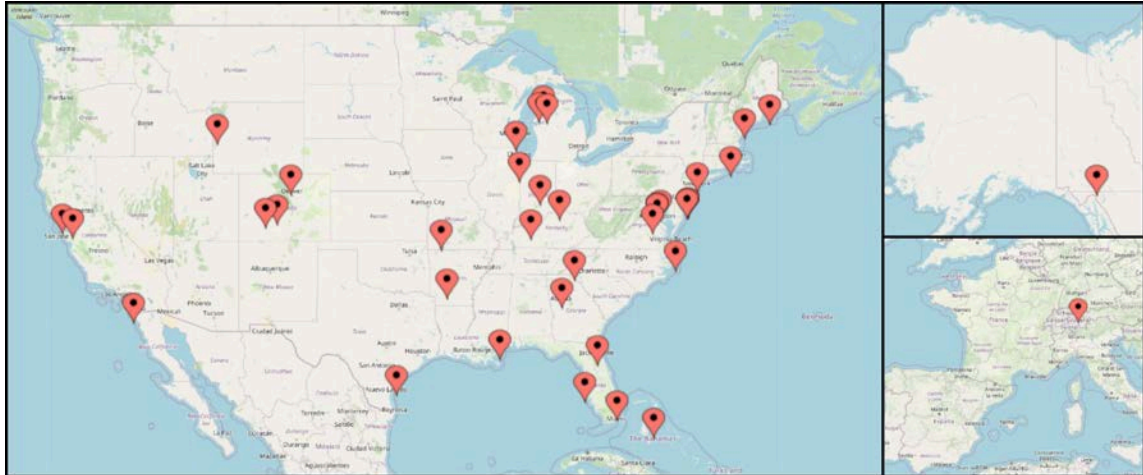
[Take Action Today!](#)



ACA Summer Solstice Celebration

The ACA Summer Solstice Celebration is less than one month away! We hope that you will join us in our attempt to get as many paddlers on the water as possible for the longest days of the year!

To make it easier to get out on the water, we have published dozens of paddling opportunities taking place this June 19-23. These events are all hosted by members of the ACA community and will be a great way to connect with local paddlers.



Find an Event Near You!

America's Boating Channel

Did you know that there is a free streaming channel full of content just for boaters? America's Boating Channel, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard and produced by United States Power Squadrons, is the official showcase and repository for videos focused on boating safety and boater education.

Smart TV viewers can watch ACA-produced content and more by subscribing to America's Boating Channel for free on Apple TV, Roku, and FireTV.

The best way to access the flagship video service offerings online for free is at AmericasBoatingChannel.com.

Viewers can still also subscribe at no charge to America's Boating Channel on YouTube to access the service's original award-winning boating safety and boater education videos.



[Read More](#)

BRINGING HOME THE GOLD

Competition Highlights

ACA Club Feature: San Diego Canoe/Kayak Team

San Diego Canoe/Kayak Team (SDCKT) was founded in 1997 by Chris Barlow, Olympic Sprint Kayaker (Barcelona 1992), and fueled by his love of paddle sport. Chris was soon joined by Olympic Sprint Canoeist, Coach Joseph (Atlanta 1996). Both Coaches wanted to share their skills and discipline to develop a new generation of Olympic level athletes. The team is located at the Youth Aquatic Center on Fiesta Island in beautiful Mission Bay Park in San Diego, California.

SDCKT offers a safe, enriching, and competitive environment that encourages a life-long relationship with paddlesports. Their craft inventory includes Olympic sprint canoes and kayaks (including team doubles and fours), surf and spec skis, and stand up paddleboards (SUPs). They also offer a well-equipped on-site gym for land training.

Right now, they have a variety of programs that can fit anyone's needs:

- Adult Racing Team
- Junior Racing Team
- Junior Development Team
- Para Racing Team (Adaptive)
- Adult Beginner

If you are local to the San Diego area, be sure to look into the San Diego Canoe and Kayak Team! With their exceptional coaching staff and diverse array of programs, they are sure to have an opportunity that is right for you!



Great location, great community — check out the San Diego Canoe/Kayak Team!

[Learn More](#)

2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup and the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships

The 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup and the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships took place May 9-12 in Szeged, Hungary. This was a great opportunity for American athletes to compete against some of the best paddlers in the world!

The entire team had an incredible performance and, as always, were wonderful ambassadors of the United States. Blake Haxton, who will be racing in the Paralympics this summer in Paris, won his heat and advanced directly to the A-Final where he placed third! Kenny Kasperbauer broke the American Men's C1 200m record and hit a top speed of 19.7kph! Kenny shared that he was, "Very excited to make the A-Final and compete against many of the world's best, including Olympians, World Champions, and the World Record Holder. It's also always special to race with the USA letter on your chest and compete among other strong athletes from around the country."

We are gutted for Jack Wallace who missed out on qualifying a quota for the Paralympics by 8 thousandths of a second (0.008). Jack's paddling career is just getting started, and he is definitely an athlete to watch.



MEN VL2 200M

Blake Haxton (right) on the podium at the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships after his third place finish. Fernando Rufino de Paulo (left), and Igor Tofalini (center) both from Brazil placed first and second respectively.

Photo Credit: David Balogh/Getty Images

2024 Rafting World Championship

On May 28 – June 2, four American raft teams will be heading to Bosnia-Herzegovina for the 2024 World Rafting Championship! [Riff Raft Racing](#) will be racing for the USA in the Men's Open event. The women of [Rapid Fire Racing](#) will be racing in the Women's Open event. The [Old School Raft Team USA](#) has a combined 116 years of professional guide experience and will be competing in the Men's Masters event. The [Ark Aces](#) from the Arkansas Valley in Colorado will be competing in the Masters Women's event.

Show your support for these teams by following them on Instagram and wish them luck as they compete in Bosnia for the World Rafting Championships!

Making Team USA Post Event Survey

If you watched a livestream or attended an event where an athlete qualified for the 2024 Olympic or Paralympic Games, please take a moment to fill out the "Making Team USA" post Trials x Audience Survey below!

[Complete the Survey](#)



Instructor of the Month: Anne Sontheimer

This May, we are excited to be celebrating Anne Sontheimer as our newest Instructor of the Month! Anne has spent the last 30 years teaching full-time with the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#) and she teaches all levels and ages. Anne seeks to create independent paddlers in her students while supporting their individual goals. Her impressive credentials include certifications as a Whitewater Kayaking Instructor Trainer Educator (ITE) and Advanced Whitewater Kayaking Instructor Trainer (IT)!

Anne further supports paddling education within the ACA in her role as the River Kayaking Committee Chair, where she helps progress and modernize river kayak discipline initiatives to empower paddlers to navigate risk and find joy in improvising and adapting!

Those lucky enough to have paddled with Anne know the true value of quality paddlesports instruction! Thank you, Anne, for your deep involvement with the ACA and your commitment to paddlesports education!



Instructor of the Month, Anne Sontheimer

[Read More](#)

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, [nominate them as future Instructor of the Month!](#)

ACA Pro School Feature: Canyon River Instruction

ACA Pro School, Canyon River Instruction (CRI), offers a diverse array of whitewater based and women's specific courses in Colorado from April through September. River

professionals and private boaters who are hoping to make the most of the 2024 season would be wise to take a course from the talented ACA instructors at Canyon River Instruction!

“At CRI, our goal is to make river running a safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable experience. We strive to create a learning and resource center for all types of river-running skills including rowing, paddle rafting, multi-day river trips, kayaking and river rescue. We bring together resources to help people become enthusiasts and enjoy a lifetime of river running experiences with emphasis on safety, experiential learning, custom instruction and river stewardship. Whether you are new to the river and excited to learn a new sport, want a better understanding of river safety, need a Swiftwater Rescue training, are looking to brush up on old skills or are ready to step up your game and tackle bigger rapids, we are here to help you achieve your whitewater goals.”



Paddle rafting course with ACA Pro School, Canyon River Instruction!

[Learn More](#)

Kayaking 101 Courses Taught in State Parks over National Safe Boating Week

Congratulations to the ACA Instructors and volunteers from Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Missouri who conducted 43 simultaneous Kayaking 101 classes this weekend to kick off National Safe Boating Week. They worked in partnership with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, 10 state agencies, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and countless local paddling stakeholders to bring these events to life. More information and a highlight reel to come!

Rafting Rendezvous and New Raft Guide Certification

The ACA has recently introduced an international Raft Guide Certification and is proud to offer a new opportunity in a fun and exciting weekend full of workshops and clinics! This

event provides top notch professional development for raft guides and instructors! Hosted on the world class whitewater of the beautiful New River National Park, this event is the first of its kind!

- Raft Guide Examiner Endorsement for Currently Certified ACA Level 4 and 5 Rafting Instructors
- Raft Guide Certifications
- ACA Rafting Instructor Updates

The Rafting Rendezvous costs \$295 and includes 3 meals per day, 3 nights of camping on-site, transportation to and from event sites, and all the necessary boats and gear!



[Learn More & Register](https://americancanoe.org/aca-rafting-rendezvous)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest stories and updates!

Have some news to share? We encourage you to submit your content for consideration using this [Content Submission Form](#).

Sincerely,

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