



Serving paddlers since 1880



As we enter 2025, the ACA celebrates a landmark 145 years of serving paddlers!



2025-2026 State Directors

The ACA Regional Activity Council (RAC) is excited to announce the newly elected State Directors who will serve a 2-year term in 2025-2026. ACA State Directors serve in a volunteer role as the state and local point person to help paddlers join forces on like-minded projects to promote paddlesports and the ACA mission at the state and local level.

ACA members in every state voted for these emerging and experienced leaders to help connect the paddling communities across the state. State Directors are mentored and work as a team with their RAC Regional Chair and the other State Directors in their region. Please help us congratulate these new state and local ACA leaders as they step up to serve paddling communities!

Find your State Director and Regional Chair to send your congratulations, ask a question, or offer resources to help other paddlers!



Victory! The EXPLORE Act passed and was signed into law!

Outdoor Alliance and partners have been working on the EXPLORE Act for nearly 10 years and the passage of this bipartisan recreation policy package marks an incredible victory and proof that the voices of paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts are being heard by our lawmakers.

"The American Canoe Association is thrilled about the passage of the EXPLORE Act. This bipartisan success will greatly improve paddlers' experiences outdoors, especially for our members who guide and teach on public lands and waters. With more Americans participating in paddlesports every year, the passage of EXPLORE is an important step in addressing long overdue management challenges and improving paddler's ability to access high-quality outdoor experiences," Brett Mayer, ACA Public Policy Director.

Please take a moment to [thank your lawmakers for passing the EXPLORE Act](#). This act signals that you are watching their votes and will influence how willing they are to pass recreation and conservation legislation in the future!



[Read More](#)

Advocating Close To Home

While we celebrate nationwide policies, we also help members navigate policy and access issues on their home turf. Most recently we have fought alongside members from Maryland and New Jersey for access to the Little Patuxent River and Bayonne Inlet, respectively. [Check out examples of ways](#) we have supported individuals and groups all over the country.



Stay Up to Date on Your SafeSport Training

ACA members get free SafeSport courses with their membership! This training educates participants on preventing abuse and misconduct in the sport community. The ACA strives to make paddlesports a welcoming and inclusive environment, and Safesport lessons help us achieve this. It's important for everybody to be aware of SafeSport policies to help maintain a safe environment in paddlesports!

To create a SafeSport account with us, follow this [ACA SafeSport Account-creation link](#). If you need any help with your account or have absolutely any questions about SafeSport please reach out to the Athlete Safety and Compliance Coordinator, Andreea, at aghizila@americancanoe.org.

Upcoming Paracanoe Training Camps

We are thrilled to announce a series of upcoming Paracanoe training camps designed for athletes of all abilities. Whether you are new to the sport or looking to refine your skills, we have something for everyone! These camps will be held in Oklahoma City and introduce participants to paracanoe and kayak through dryland and on-water training. They are specifically geared toward newer athletes and individuals who want to kickstart their journey towards the Paralympics. No prior experience is necessary!

[Camp 1: Dryland Training Camp](#)

Dates: February 15 – February 17, 2024

[Camp 2: On-the-Water Camp](#)

Dates: May 24 – May 26, 2024



Welcome, new SEIC Board Officers!

We want to give a big welcome to the new SEIC Executive Committee! These highly esteemed instructors and trainers were elected by the SEIC Board to serve a two-year term from 2025-2026. With big plans on the horizon, they are going to lead many transformational projects and make a great impact for ACA instructors and trainers.

Chair - Ryan Rushton
Vice Chair - Jule Harle
Secretary - Lance Elzie
At-Large - Alan Cammack

Instructor of the Month: Ingrid Haddon

This month, we're proud to spotlight Ingrid, a passionate Coastal Kayaking and Flatwater SUP Instructor who's making waves in the paddling community! From teaching at Falls Lake, NC, to leading epic trips across the country, Ingrid shares her love for paddling with students of all ages and abilities. Her paddling journey started in childhood, camping and canoeing, and grew into a lifelong passion for paddlesports. Ingrid's dedication to learning led her to the ACA and a teaching role with the Carolina Kayak Club, where she's expanded opportunities for fellow paddlers.

What fuels Ingrid? Those "aha!" moments when her students gain confidence—whether it's mastering a rescue, bracing against a wave, or simply loading a boat. She's also a fierce advocate for adaptive paddling, working to make waterways more accessible to everyone. Thank you, Ingrid, for inspiring us all with your commitment to community, connection, and empowering others on the water!



Instructor of the Month, Ingrid Haddon

[Read More](#)

Do you know a great ACA instructor who should be recognized for their contributions to their paddling community? [Nominate them as future Instructor of the Month!](#)

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,

Kaycee Maas

ACA Paddlesports

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