
Contributor Guidelines

Adventure Kayak celebrates all the adventures of kayak touring, from a tour through the local marina to an arctic expedition to all the diversity in between. *Adventure Kayak's* content has an international scope, with roots in the Canadian paddling scene. Our readers range from rank beginners to expert paddlers who share the desire to learn, explore and experience the paddling world. *Adventure Kayak* publishes four issues annually, in February (Spring), April (Early Summer), June (Summer) and August (Fall/Winter). We do most of our editorial scheduling between August and October for the upcoming year, but we accept submissions at any time.

We welcome your contributions to *Adventure Kayak*. We're open to ideas—well-written epics, cultural adventure, environmental dilemmas, personality profiles on important paddlers either historic or contemporary, humour, fiction and more. We are always in the market for articles that have depth, emotional impact and take-away value for the reader, complemented by striking photos. The best way to assess our interest in your idea is to send us a thorough article summary—a query.

Submitting a Query

For anything other than creative non-fiction essays or fiction), we would rather read detailed queries than completed manuscripts.

Queries should present a clear and specific idea, not merely a general topic, and should reflect familiarity with the magazine's content and tone.

Be sure to include any supporting photos. We will rarely consider a story without good photos, and we will occasionally buy a story based on photos alone. Please tell us how we can get professional quality slides, high-resolution digital or print images to illustrate your article. Better yet, email us a few low-resolution preview images, or mail us a CD that we can keep. See photography guidelines for more details.

Please send queries by email to the address below. We do not accept queries over the phone. We will reply to your query within 8 weeks if we are interested in your idea. We will not return unsolicited manuscripts or photos unless you include an SASE or return courier account number. Writers submitting story ideas should be aware that the editors at *Adventure Kayak* may already have assigned or be working on a similar story.

Before you query, carefully study several issues of *Adventure Kayak* so you can tell us how your idea will fit into the magazine.

Contents

THIS and THAT

We are always looking for news stories to fill the magazine's introductory section. This and That includes short, timely articles about events, industry and club news, expeditions, paddling personalities, tricks of the trade, environmental coverage, book and video reviews and more. This is the best place to submit your first story. 100–300 words plus supporting photos.

TECHNIQUES

Instructors and experienced paddlers take note! You've spent years perfecting the best way to teach a specific paddling stroke or technique. The skill level can vary—our readers range from haven't-bought-a-boat-yet to the weathered pro. Technique articles should be concise, accurate, easy to understand and well illustrated. We look for a well thought-out teaching methodology and clear photos. Demonstrate a skill through a sequence of photos over one to two pages using minimal text. 400–600 words plus photos.

ROCK THE BOAT

These are op ed-type essays (similar to what you might find next to the editorial page in newspapers) poking fun at the paddling world's quirky idiosyncrasies or taking a hard look at more serious issues. Stir the pot. Take a stand. Tell it how it is. Your ideas should be organized and well developed in essay form, with your point clearly stated near the beginning. Send us up to 650 words.

FEATURES

Our feature articles are up to 1,750 words in length and typically include professional-quality photos. Features are our most competitive category. Features include:

Adventure Writing: Adventure writing isn't about just any trip. It tells about an adventure—that is, an original and exciting experience, an exceptional place or an exceptional experience in a familiar place. Good adventure travel writing grips the reader with the feeling of being there and offers something—exceptional humour, a life lesson, a new outlook or deeper understanding—more than a play-by-play account of what happened on your trip.

Destinations: *Adventure Kayak* prints destination pieces that go beyond a mere description of a place to inspire, entertain or inform. Our destination stories are often based upon the author's recent trip experience, but have a fresh angle deepened by back-

ground information and interviews with local characters. Readers should come away with a strong sense of that particular outdoor experience as well a firm grasp of the location's general character and potential.

Other Features: This field is wide open to any story that's related to kayak touring. Well-written articles and essays or photo essays about the kayaking environment, people, culture, events, gear, industry topics and more can be spun into fun and informative features in a journalistic style. Also consider whether you have personality profiles, tips, recipes, news or other short pieces to include as sidebars with a feature story.

Text Submission Guidelines

If we accept your query, please submit your completed work according to these guidelines:

- **Include your name, article title and word count on the first page of your submission.**
- Carefully check all facts and figures and spellings (names, places, scientific terms) for accuracy.
- **Include a concise, 25-word biography** to be published at our discretion.
- Please save documents in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format (RTF) and send as an email attachment—do not paste it into the body of an email message.
- Be sure to include your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address with all submissions.

We will make a reasonable effort to ensure the safe return of slides, negatives and other materials that you loan to us; however, contributors are responsible for insuring these materials against loss or damage.

Terms and Payment

We expect first North American print rights to your work. *Adventure Kayak* requires that you inform us if your submission, or any portion or concept of your submission, has been previously published or is being considered for publication elsewhere. We also require that you inform us as to any flights, accommodations, meals, etc. that were given to you free of charge as part of a familiarization or press trip.

We pay contributors a pre-negotiated rate of up to \$0.20 per word depending on length, content and quality. Payment is within 45 days following the release date of the issue in which the material appears. We buy first North American print rights as well as the right to reproduce the original publication by any means or technology for our promotional purposes including indefinite publication on the Internet as part of our online edition. Details are outlined in our contributor agreement.

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