

Canoe Freestyle Development Camp

We ran a very successful development camp in Columbus Georgia. While the camp was smaller than our previous camp in Nottingham, the Columbus camp reached many of its targets. We had our first Chinese Athletes take part in a Freestyle kayaking competition, Uganda returned after a break of a few years. Norway, Australia and Argentina also participated.

The group bonded very well and we all ensure continuity & follow-up. The Australian athletes have been paddling in Argentina since the worlds in Columbus.

We have already started making plans for our next camp at the World cups in Platting Germany, later this summer.

Outcomes: The ICF Freestyle Development Camp yielded several notable outcomes, including:

1. **Skill Advancement:** Participants reported significant improvements in their freestyle canoeing skills, attributing their progress to the expert instruction and hands-on practice opportunities provided during the camp.
2. **Knowledge Acquisition:** Attendees gained valuable insights and knowledge from the workshops and interactions with coaches and peers, deepening their understanding of the technical aspects and nuances of freestyle canoeing.
3. **Networking and Community Building:** The camp facilitated meaningful connections and friendships among participants, fostering a supportive and inclusive community of freestyle canoeing enthusiasts across geographical boundaries.
4. **Inspiration and Motivation:** Many participants left the camp feeling inspired and motivated to continue their journey in freestyle canoeing, fuelled by the camaraderie, shared passion, and newfound skills and knowledge acquired during the event.

Impact: The ICF Freestyle Development Camp in Columbus had a significant impact on the participants and the broader freestyle canoeing community. By providing a platform for skill development, knowledge-sharing, and community building, the camp contributed to the continued growth and advancement of the sport, inspiring the next generation of freestyle canoeists and fostering a culture of excellence and inclusivity within the discipline.

Conclusion: The ICF Freestyle Development Camp held in Columbus in 2023 was a resounding success, achieving its objectives of promoting skill development, knowledge-sharing, and community building within the freestyle canoeing community.

The camp's impact extends beyond its immediate participants, contributing to the broader growth and advancement of the sport on a global scale. As freestyle canoeing continues to evolve and thrive, events like these play a crucial role in nurturing talent, fostering innovation, and fostering a sense of belonging within the freestyle canoeing community.