

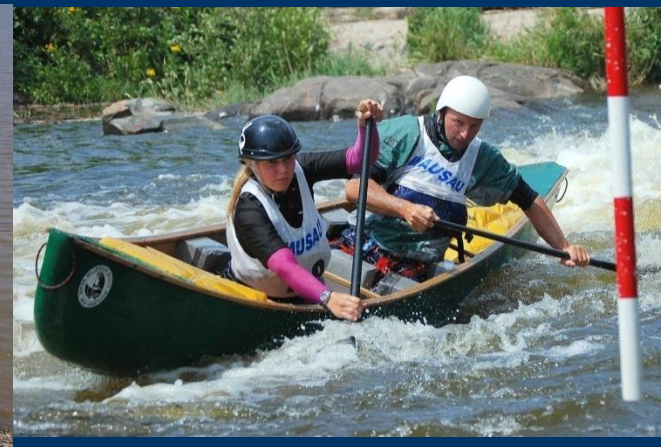
# Adaptive Paddling in the USA



**John MacDonald**

ACA Adaptive Paddling  
Committee Chair

Education. Recreation. Stewardship. Exploration. Competition.



# John MacDonald

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

### Introduction

- ACA Adaptive Paddling IT Educator
- ACA Kayak Instructor Trainer
- ACA Adaptive Paddling Committee Chair
- 14 years of Adaptive Paddling Experience
- 3 International Adaptive Paddling Workshops
- Owner – Play Harder Adventures
- Director – Recreation – The University of Akron



# Who is the ACA?

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

- Founded in 1880, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is a nonprofit 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**.



# ACA Instructor Certification Program

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

- Established 1972
  - 8,500 certified Instructors – 250 certified Instructor Trainers
    - Canoe (Touring, FreeStyle, River)
    - Kayak (River, Coastal, Surf, Sit-on-Top, Prone, Surfski)
    - Raft
    - Safety & Rescue
    - Adaptive Paddling
    - Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP)
      - (Flatwater, Whitewater, Surf, Coastal, Yoga)
- Estimated **809,000** students taught annually



# Recreation

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

- Support over 4,000 yearly events
- Promote paddlesports events around the world
- Sanctioned over 200 races
- Provide insurance for club events and festivals
- Support the development of new initiatives for paddlesports recreation opportunities



# Competition – Olympic & Paralympic

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

- The ACA is the US National Governing Body (NGB) for the Olympic paddlesports of canoe slalom and canoe sprint and the Paralympic sport of Paracanoe. Both disciplines include events for both canoe and kayak.





# ACA Adaptive Paddling

Adaptive Paddling in the USA



# Adaptive Paddling Workshops (APW)

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

Provide the information necessary to seamlessly integrate individuals with physical disabilities into outdoor recreation programs in the context of paddlesports.

16+ hour workshop with a focus on:

- Language, Etiquette and Interaction
- The Legal Context
- Cultivating Seamless Integration
- Adaptive Outfitting Concepts & Goals
- Mechanics of Adaptive Outfitting for Paddlesports





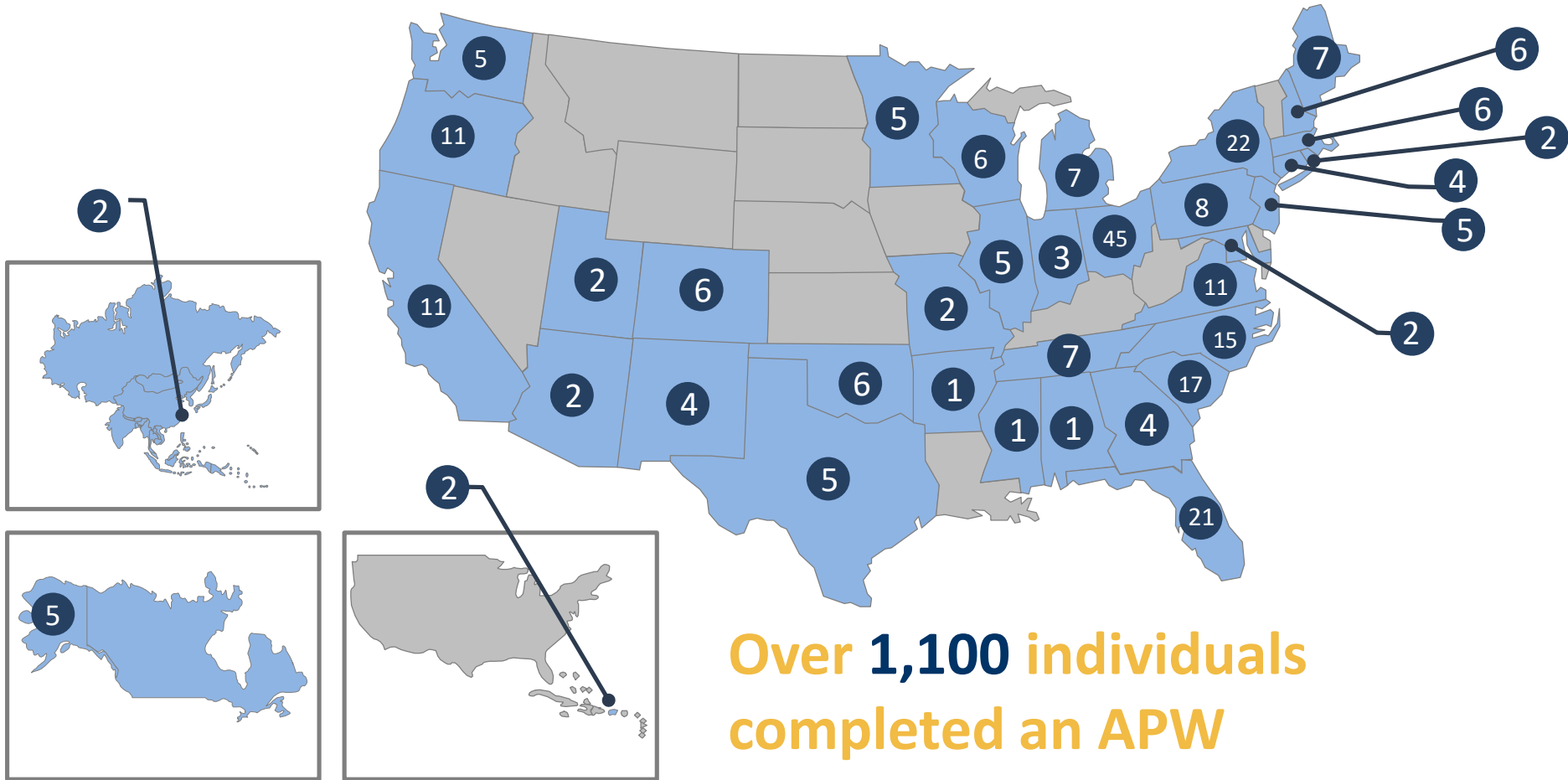
# Adaptive Paddling Workshops

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

- Focus on the **integration of paddlers with disabilities**
- Review instructor paddling & instructional skills with a **focus on outfitting and equipment adaptation**
- **Apply skills and knowledge** of safe outfitting development to meet the needs of a novice paddler with disabilities
- **Instruct the novice paddler in ACA Level 1 skills**



We have **274** ACA instructors with an Adaptive Paddling endorsement around the globe\*

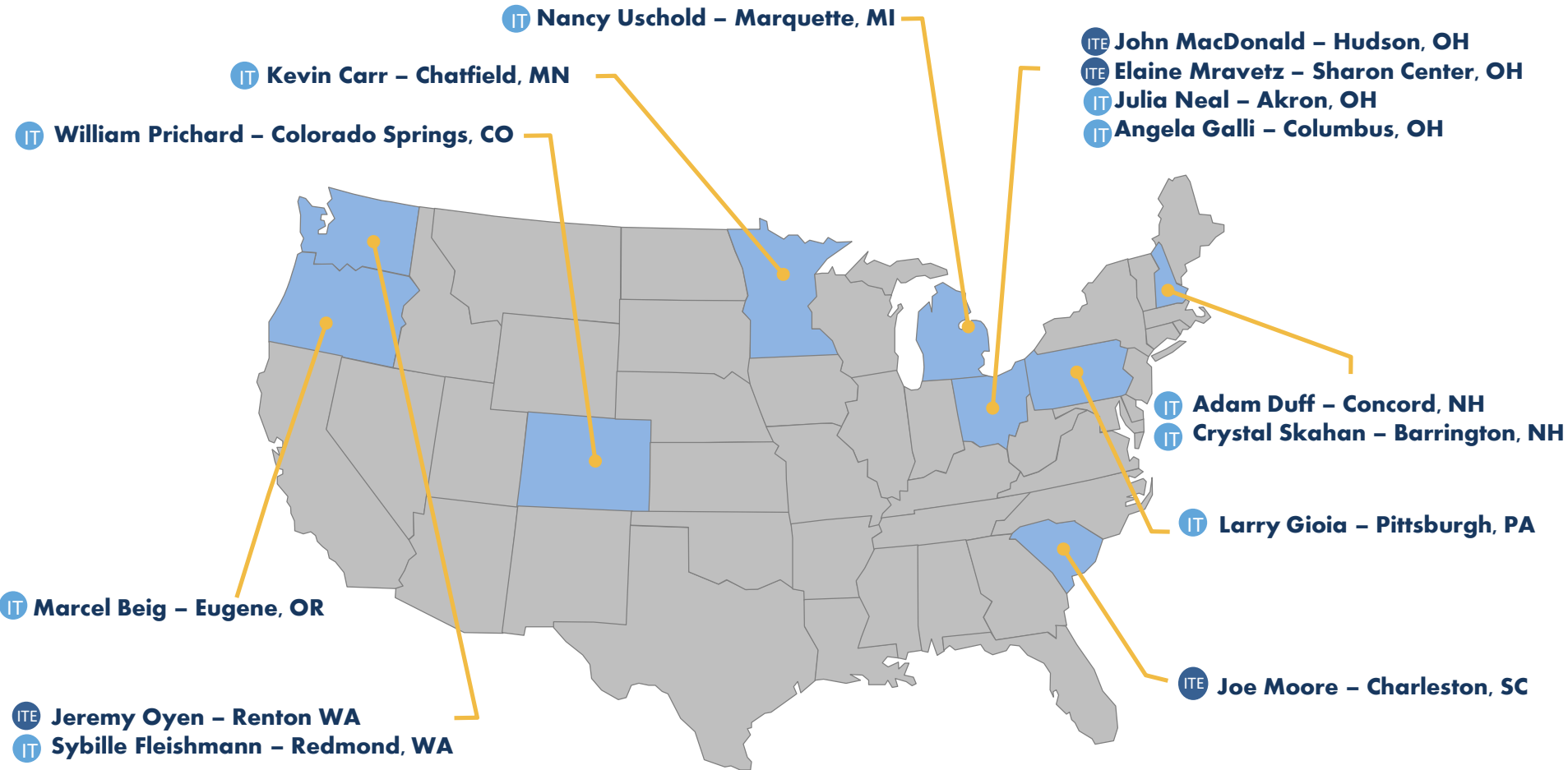


Over **1,100** individuals  
completed an APW

 **PROTIP:** For a complete list of AP ITE/IT/instructors, visit [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/sei-documents/Instructor\\_List\\_-\\_Adaptive.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/sei-documents/Instructor_List_-_Adaptive.pdf)

\* As of 9/2018

# We have **14** Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainers across **9** states

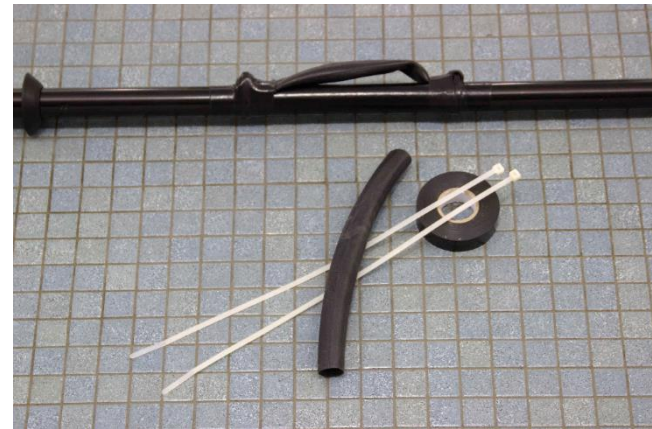


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\* As of 9/2018

# Course outfitting

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA



Custom design and outfitting of boats and equipment



# Outfitting Application

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA



Learn how to design and outfit boats and equipment to meet student needs



# Commercial Application

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA





# Commercial Application

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA





# Bringing It All Together

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA





# Program Growth

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

APW Raft - First ever Rafting Adaptive Paddling Workshop - Eugene Oregon June 1-3 2018

APW SUP - First ever SUP Adaptive Paddling Workshop - Durham, NH, June 29-July 1 2018

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Adaptive Paddling Summit

Date: November 2-4, 2018

Location: Weeki Wachee, Florida

Including classroom and on-water seminars and workshops led by adaptive paddling industry leaders



# Program Expansion

## Adaptive Paddling in the USA

### Advanced Communications

- Vision impairments
- Speech and language impairments
- Hearing impairments

3 day ACA curriculum development summit was held May 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2018 bringing together experts to create this new curriculum.

Thanks to grant funding from the Craig H. Neilson Foundation, and a partnership with Adaptive Expeditions, in 2018, the ACA's Adaptive Paddling Committee will be developing a series of curriculum updates for advanced communication.





# Contact Information

The ACA & YOU!

## ACA

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