

**Rowan Stuart**  
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7 February 2021

Dear Mr. Rabaneda and the ICF Freestyle Committee,

I am writing to you today to share my interest in becoming a member of the ICF Freestyle Committee. My passion for whitewater paddling began when I was a child, introduced to the beauty of the river by my parents. From 2010 to 2017, my world completely revolved around my love of freestyle kayaking. In recent years, I've taken a step back from the competitive paddling world to focus on my career and on my education. While I stepped away from competition, I worked to stay within the industry. From 2018 to 2020, I spent my time building my skills as an kayaking instructor, coach, and freestyle judge.

Now, as a graduate student, I plan to write my thesis about the motivations of competitive kayakers. What factors influence a paddler to persist in the sport, and how can we strengthen those factors for other athletes? Freestyle continues to hold a special place in my heart, and I'd love the opportunity to give back to this community by having a place on the ICF Freestyle Committee. Below you can find my resume and relevant freestyle paddling experience.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

*Rowan H Stuart*

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## EDUCATION

### **Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC**

M.S. Experiential and Outdoor Education — August 2020 to May 2022 (expected)

Proposed Thesis Topic — Exploring the Motivations of Competitive Freestyle Paddlers

### **University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC**

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology — August 2014 to May 2017

Minors in Neuroscience, and Biology

### **Southwestern Community College, and Jackson Co. Early College; Sylva, NC**

Associate of Arts, and High School Diploma — August 2010 to May 2014

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## COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL FREESTYLE KAYAKING EXPERIENCE

### **ICF Freestyle World Championships 2017**

San Juan River; San Juan, Argentina

15th place; Womens Sr.

### **ICF Freestyle World Championships 2015**

Ottawa River; Foresters Falls, ON, CA

7th place; Womens Sr.

### **ICF Freestyle World Cup 2014**

Millau, France - 2nd place; Womens Jr.  
Salt, Spain - 2nd place; Womens Jr.  
Sort, Spain - 1st place; Womens Jr.

### **ICF Freestyle World Championships 2013**

Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, USA  
1st place; Womens Jr.

### **ICF Freestyle World Cup 2012**

Rock Island, TN, USA - 3rd place; Womens Jr.  
Hartford, TN, USA - 4th place; Womens Jr.  
Wesser, NC, USA - 3rd place; Womens Jr.

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## CAREER EXPERIENCE

### **University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC**

Campus Recreation Outdoor Programs Coordinator  
August 2019 to Present

### **H2O Dreams, Saluda, NC**

Whitewater Kayak Instructor & Youth Program Lead  
Summer & Fall Seasonal — 2018 & 2019

### **University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC**

Outdoor Programs Staff

School Year Seasonal — January 2015 to May 2017, alumni guest instructor 2019

1. Outdoor Leadership Training Program Supervisor
2. Wilderness Pre-Orientation Logistics Coordinator
3. Wilderness Pre-Orientation Trip Leader
4. Kayak Roll Session Coordinator
5. Trip Leader

### **Endless River Adventures, Wesser, NC**

Whitewater Kayak Instructor, Raft Guide, Sales Associate  
Summer Seasonal — 2013 to 2018

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*NOCRSA State Workshop*; Wilderness Pre-Orientation in a Time of a Pandemic, 12 October 2020  
*Carolina Outdoor Adventure Leadership Summit*: Trip Leading During Pandemic; Wilderness Medicine Scenarios, 2 February 2021

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## CERTIFICATIONS

*American Canoe Association*; Level 4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor — 2015 to present  
*International Canoe Federation*; Grade B Freestyle Kayak Judge — 2018 to present  
*Landmark Learning*; Wilderness First Responder — 2019 to present  
*American Red Cross*; Instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED — 2019 to present  
*American Red Cross*; Wilderness and Remote First Aid Instructor — 2019 to present