

## American Whitewater Journal Submission Guidelines

For over six decades, the *American Whitewater Journal* has been the leading voice of whitewater boaters nationwide. The publication has been instrumental in supporting the sense of community and connection that is essential to the safe enjoyment of whitewater rivers, their restoration, and protection.

The *American Whitewater Journal* is a largely volunteer publication that relies on boaters to submit the stories and photos that make up its content. The consistent inclusion of member contributed content makes the Journal more than just a nonprofit newsletter. It is a collaborative narrative that you have a hand in crafting, and a tactile expression of what is unique and precious about American Whitewater.

**What is your whitewater story? What do you want to discuss with your whitewater community? What whitewater expertise are you ready to share?** We've made it easier than ever to submit your work for publication via our [Journal Submission Form](#). Please review the below departments and submission formats before submitting.

Chewing on an idea but not sure where to begin? Reach out to our Membership Content Editor Emerald LaFortune: [editor@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:editor@americanwhitewater.org).

## Departments

*American Whitewater* publishes stories on a variety of topics related to whitewater rivers.

Regular departments include the following:

### Community Voices

Tell your whitewater story or share your whitewater expertise. Essays in the community voices department are typically 500 - 2000 words, include photos, and explore a topic related to your life as a whitewater enthusiast. Personal narratives, how-tos, biographies, trip reports, competition stories and expository essays are all welcome.

### River Safety

Bring your whitewater safety expertise to the community with an article detailing a set of safety skills, an opinion on best safe practices for river running, research into a safety related topic, or

any other swiftwater rescue or river safety related ideas. River safety pieces are generally 500-1000 words in length.

## **River Recipes**

Show off your favorite riverside recipes and backcountry bites! Recipes don't need to be fancy or complicated, but *should* include a measured ingredient list, step-by-step instructions, and a brief (100-200) word narrative about why you love the recipe or where you used it last. Bonus points for a photograph or two

**Member Sound Off:** Oar rights or rope wraps? Fall boating or spring boating? Dam release or freestone? Half-slice or creekboat? In this department, whether serious or lighthearted, AW members pick a side and argue their case.

Have an idea for a member sound off? Email Membership Content Editor Emerald LaFortune: [editor@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:editor@americanwhitewater.org).

**Ask American Whitewater:** For those burning whitewater questions you're ready to turn over to the membership, submit an "Ask American Whitewater" question\* to the journal submission form. Your name will **not** be published with your question.

*\*Questions may be edited for clarity or length*

## **Member Spotlight / Member Feature**

Know an American Whitewater member who goes above and beyond? Nominate a member for our member spotlight, or write a feature about how their work promotes the safe enjoyment of whitewater rivers, their restoration, and protection. Member feature essays are 500 - 1500 words and should include a few photos.

## **Creative**

We welcome your original river and whitewater focused artwork, poetry, song lyrics, and more. Nominations of others' creative work is also accepted and encouraged!

## **Miscellaneous**

We also welcome member-contributed content on a wide-range of subjects beyond the above departments. Submissions should be under 2000 words and focused on a whitewater or river-related topic. Below is a list of topics that we have received stories on in the past.

Whitewater safety	Teaching/instructing paddling	Urban whitewater
Why I paddle	How I got started in whitewater	Kids/teens in whitewater

Family paddling	Pioneers of the sport (pre-1970)	Women in whitewater
International travel	Overnight paddling trips	Iconic American rivers
Canoeing	Whitewater love stories	Volunteer stewardship
Wilderness paddling	Competition (slalom, downriver, attaining, etc.)	
Creeking	Inflatables (rafts, IKs, etc.)	Boating beyond youth
Road trips	Best runs for: beginners, intermediates, advanced paddlers	

## Submission Deadlines

Deadlines for our issues are listed below. American Whitewater will not necessarily publish everything we receive, nor publish your work in the immediately upcoming issue. Please be advised that several months may elapse between the time a story is submitted and the time it appears in print.

<b><i>Journal</i> Issue</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
Winter	October 1
Mar-April	December 1
May-June	February 1
July-Aug	April 1
Sep-Oct	June 1

## Submission Formats

### Writing

Please read the following carefully before submitting any articles and/or photos to *American Whitewater*.

All text should be submitted as Google Doc or .docx. Be sure the sharing settings allow the editor@americanwhitewater.org account editing privileges. Please do not alter the margins or spacing parameters; use Google's standard default settings. In the layout process, article formatting will be lost, so please don't put effort into your written story's appearance in the document you submit.

## **Photography**

All photos should be submitted as digital files (both .jpeg and .tiff format accepted). Higher resolution photos make it possible to print your pictures at larger sizes (1 megabyte per photo is the minimum recommended file size). American Whitewater does not have the ability to scan slides, photos, or negatives in high resolution; scanning your own photos and sending them to us digitally helps us use them and also ensures that your art is not lost in transit.

All photo submissions should be made through our [Journal Submission Form](#).

## **Content Miscellaneous**

Please check all facts carefully, particularly those regarding individuals, government agencies, and corporations involved in river access and environmental matters. You are legally responsible for the accuracy of such material.

Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editors to fit our format, length, and style. Our production schedule limits an author's ability to review the editorial changes made prior to publication.

## **Questions**

Email the Membership Content Editor Emerald at [editor@americanwhitewater.org](mailto:editor@americanwhitewater.org).