SEVENTY48 Adventure Resumes

Your Adventure Resume isn't a sales pitch. Tell us what you've actually done, what you've learned, and what you bring to the team.

We're not looking for perfect adventurers or a long list of impressive accomplishments. We want honest, specific examples that help us understand your experience, skills, and judgment.

Don't just tell us you're ready. Show us what you've done to get there. That's what the Vetting Team needs to make its decision.

The Basics

Each member of the should write their own Adventure Resume. Keep it to 1–1.5 pages max. Shorter is fine, as long as it gets the facts across. If you're going beyond that, there's probably some filler you can cut.

The Team Captain should gather everyone's resumes, paste them into one file (we believe in you), and upload it with the application. We believe in your tech skills.

Different Strokes for Different Folks

We vet the composition of the whole team, including the vessel. Solo racers are scrutinized much more heavily.

On larger teams, there's more room for crew members with less experience. An inexperienced paddler might fit perfectly on a well-prepared six-person crew, but be a serious liability as half of a double.

A Word About Safety and Night Navigation

SEVENTY48 isn't a recreational paddle. You're heading into busy, sometimes unforgiving waters, and you'll almost certainly be operating in the dark.

Some of the most common deficiencies we see in applications involve night navigation, proper navigation lights, and familiarity with Coast Guard rules and required safety equipment.

These aren't minor details. We expect racers to understand the rules that apply to their vessels and know how to operate safely in the conditions they'll encounter. If you've got relevant experience, tell us about it. If there are gaps in your knowledge or preparation, be upfront about them.

Race night is a lousy time to start figuring this stuff out.

What to Include

- What you have actually done. What types of human-powered craft you've used, where you've used them, how often or how long.
- Conditions and situations that add context. Night travel, strong wind, current, commercial traffic, fatigue, unfamiliar water, equipment problems, emergencies, or other situations that tested your skills.
- What you were responsible for. "Paddled across Puget Sound" tells us less than "Planned the route, checked currents, and navigated our two-person kayak across Puget Sound from Manchester to Alki Point in a 9 knot crosswind and a short chop."

- **Decisions you made.** Tell us about times you changed plans, waited for weather, turned around, solved a problem, made a mistake, or decided not to continue.
- **Relevant experience away from the water.** Endurance sports, wilderness travel, emergency response, mechanical work, leadership, medicine, and other experience can matter. Tell us what you did; don't just name the trait you think it proves.
- **The limits of your experience.** If there are things you have not done yet, say so. Tell us what related experience you do have and what you're doing to prepare.

What NOT to Include

We are interested in who you are and why you want to race. Just not right now. Leave these out of your Adventure Resume:

- Long biographies, personal histories, or stories about why you love being on the water.
- Jokes. The vetters get confused - the comedy bit should come later.
- Explanations of why you want to do SEVENTY48 or how much the challenge means to you.
- Self-assessments like "I am very experienced," "I stay calm under pressure," "I know my limits," or "I am ready for this race." - Show us this with facts rather than asking us to trust you.
- Sales pitches, motivational statements, or polished language meant to make you sound impressive.

What Needs More Detail to Be Useful

These things absolutely belong in a resume, but by themselves don't tell us enough:

- **"20 years of experience."** Twenty years of paddling could mean almost anything. Tell us what those years involved.
- **Race and trip lists.** Great to know where you've been, but what vessels, what conditions, and what were you doing?
- **Certifications and licenses.** Helpful, but tell us about the practical experience behind them.
- **Lists of skills.** "Navigation," "rough water," and "emergency procedures" can mean very different things to different people. Give us some context.
- **Statements about handling vaguely described difficult situations.** If you've dealt with bad weather, equipment failures, or emergencies, tell us what actually happened and what you did.

A Couple of Examples

Instead of this	Give us this
"I've been paddling for 20 years and am very experienced."	"About 20 years of paddling, mostly day trips of 5–15 miles in Puget Sound. I paddle a 17-foot sea kayak and have completed six trips over 25 miles, including two crossings of the Puget Sound main stem and three across Rosario Strait."
"I'm comfortable in rough water."	"Paddled in sustained 15–20 knot winds and steep 2–3 foot chop near Point Wilson. We decided to abandon our planned crossing and followed the shoreline to more sheltered water."
"I know how to navigate at night."	"Completed three nighttime paddles in Puget Sound, including a 14-mile trip in unfamiliar waters. I planned the route, monitored commercial traffic, and navigated using charts, GPS, and visual references."

Instead of this	Give us this
"My kayak has all the required safety gear."	"I understand the Coast Guard requirements for my kayak, including navigation lighting and required safety equipment. I mounted and tested my lights on two nighttime paddles and verified their visibility and operation."
"I know when to turn around."	"We planned a 30-mile training paddle but encountered stronger headwinds than forecast. After 12 miles, we reassessed our pace and remaining daylight and turned around rather than commit to the full route."
"I'm an endurance athlete and mentally tough."	"Three 50Ks and one 50-mile trail race; longest event just over 12 hours. That doesn't make me an experienced paddler, but I have experience managing food, hydration, discomfort, and my judgment when tired."

Keep It Simple

Bullets are great. We're not judging writing quality, design, or whether your resume looks professional. We want facts we can evaluate quickly. (The Vetting Team are volunteers with families and stuff!)

If you use AI or another tool to organize or edit your resume, check every detail. Everything submitted has to be factual and based on your actual experience. Fabricated, exaggerated, or invented experience can be grounds for rejecting the application. When in doubt, write it yourself.