WA360 Adventure Resumes

Your Adventure Resume isn't a sales pitch. Tell us what you've actually done and what you bring to the team. Don't tell us you're ready. That's for the Vetting Team to decide.

The Basics

Each team member 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, 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 boat. Solo racers are scrutinized much more heavily.

On larger teams, there's more room for crew members with less skills. An inexperienced racer might fit perfectly on a five-person crew on a stable boat, but be a serious liability if part of a doublehanded team.

What to include

- **What you have actually done.** What boats, where you used them, how often or how long, and what your role was.
- **Conditions and situations that add context.** Night travel, strong wind, current, traffic, fatigue, unfamiliar water, equipment problems, emergencies, or other situations that tested your skills.
- **What you were responsible for.** "Did Swiftsure" tells us less than "navigator and watch captain during Swiftsure."
- **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 sailing or paddling.** 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 are 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.
- Explanations of why you want to do WA360 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."
- 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 sailing could mean almost anything. Tell us what those years involved.
- **Race and trip lists.** Great to know where you've been, but what boats, what conditions, and what were you doing aboard?
- **Certifications and licenses.** Helpful, but tell us about the practical experience behind them.
- **Lists of skills.** "Navigation," "heavy weather," 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 sailing for 20 years and am very experienced."	"About 20 years sailing, mostly day sailing and week-long cruises in Puget Sound and the San Juans. Skipper of my own 28-foot sailboat for six years. Four overnight trips and two Round the Counties."
"I'm comfortable in heavy weather."	"Strongest conditions I've sailed in were 25-30 knots in Rosario Strait with short, steep chop. I was helming and helped reef the main."
"I stay calm and make good decisions when things go wrong."	"Steering cable failed about 12 miles west of Port Angeles in 18-22 knots. I handled navigation, VHF, and traffic while two crew rigged the emergency tiller. We diverted to Port Angeles."
"I know when to turn around."	"We left Blake Island because everyone had work the next morning. Halfway across, the weather deteriorated and we realized the schedule was a bad reason to keep going. We turned back and stayed another night."
"I'm a quick learner and confident I'll be ready."	"I have about 35 sailing days. I have not independently navigated unfamiliar tidal water at night. Before the race I plan to complete four overnight trips and navigate one full trip myself."
"I'm an endurance athlete and mentally tough."	"Three 50Ks and one 50-mile trail race; longest event just over 12 hours. That does not make me a sailor, 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.