



Michael Tayler

Olympian | National Team Kayaker

Paddling towards Gold at Rio 2016

Profile

I am 24 years old and compete in the Olympic event of Canoe/Kayak Slalom, a dynamic sport where athletes race down whitewater rapids through a series of slalom gates. I began kayaking over a decade ago at the young age of eight at a week long summer camp in my hometown of Ottawa. In 2007, I qualified for the Junior National Team and since then I have had the opportunity to travel the world, training and competing at unique whitewater slalom venues across North and South America, Europe, and Oceania.

In 2012 at the Canadian Olympic Trials, my goal was to rank in the top-3 Men's competitors and make the Senior national team for my first time. I surpassed this goal, placing 1st in two out of four races to lead the rankings and win Canada's only 2012 Olympic kayak spot. Racing at the London Olympics I was the youngest competitor and placed 20th in an experienced field.

The 2016 Olympic trials were held this year on Canada's only artificial whitewater course just outside Whistler, BC. In a tough field of competitors – I dominated the field winning all 4/4 races. This secured a significant lead on the Rio Olympic spot and two weeks later at the second last opportunity for Olympic selection, I sealed my return to the Olympic Games at the World Cup in La Seu d'Urgell, Spain!

My focus is now on preparing for the Olympic Games, held August 5-21st in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I will travel there once before the Games for a two-week training camp at the end of June and then again 2 weeks before the competition in August. This training camp is self-funded as well as all my equipment costs for the Olympics. In order to give myself the best preparation to perform, I am seeking sponsors to partner with me on my quest for gold!

Media/Public Speaking Experience



Since 2012, I have gained valuable experience in and have become a confident speaker who enjoys telling my story. In 2013, I completed a public speaking for athletes course with Motivate Canada which has helped me refine my skills and cater my presentations to a range of audiences.

I am available for motivational presentations in Ottawa (schedule permitting) as well as keynote addresses and other roles in corporate and charity events.

Sponsorship Opportunities

I am building my network of sponsors over the summer in preparation for the 2016 World Cup Series, the Olympic Games, and beyond! In 2012, my expenses came to almost \$15,000 for me to prepare and compete in the Olympics. I expect this year to be similar as I am responsible for all equipment costs, team fees, flights, accommodation, transportation at the World Cups and training camp in Rio before the Games.

If you are interested in learning more about how to sponsor me and wish to join the incredible individuals helping me on my road to Rio, please don't hesitate to contact me at mgtaylor@gmail.com.

Thank you,

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