



Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe 2017-2018

This past year was an exceptional season for Michigan Technological University's Concrete Canoe Team. Michigan Tech successfully defended its title at the regional level and were pleased at the level of competition they were able to bring to the National Competition in Golden, Colorado.

From the valley of the Appalachians to the peaks of the Rockies, America is dotted with golden corn fields and shawing seas of wheat. With freshly picked strawberries in the spring time, to mouthwatering corn-on-the-cob in the summer, and grandma's famous pumpkin pie in the fall, there truly is nothing better than the food produce here at home. In tribute to the men and women who work endless to provide meals for families across this nation, the team dedicated last year's theme to the Agriculture industry. Much like how America stretches from sea to shining sea with diverse cultures and terrain creating a beautiful landscape, so too did Free Range capture the different skills this team has to make one amazing boat. The theme was carried throughout the display table, cross section, and stands, and was a true representation of the wonders that is the breadbasket of our nation.

Free Range utilized feedback from Free Range to improve the hull design. A hybrid hull of a shallow arch profile in the bow and a flat bottom in the stern was utilized to allow for initial stability, paddler comfort in the coed, and increased turning ability without sacrificing straight-line tracking. The bulge in the center of the canoe was also removed to allow for a more streamline design and decrease concrete usage. Credit for Free Range is attributed to Anthony Peszek, who worked to make an innovative hull design.



2017 Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe at a Glance	
Name	Free Range
Weight	183 lbs.
Width	25.5"
Length	20'
Depth	14"

2017 National Competition

In June, Michigan Tech traveled to the national competition in Golden, Colorado. The hard work and dedication of the team paid off once the competition began. The team once again placed top 10 in presentation. The paddling team also placed top 10 in majority of the races. Our 11th place finish was rounded out by innovative aesthetics and strong paddling.





The performance of our paddlers this past year was due to rigorous practices and skills passed on from older members. Paddling practices were held three days a week outside to hone in skills in the water. During the winter months, indoor workouts were held to strengthen paddlers endurance and better prepare them for races at the regional and national level. Our top 10 place presentation finish was due to solid practices held weekly during the spring semester. The team helped by quizzing each presenter with hundreds of questions to prepare for the Q & A session at competition. With diligent preparation and rigorous studying, the presenters were prepared for every question that was asked.

In addition to the presentation, the team also made a number of strides forward in other categories. Devin Hall, Mitch Finnegan, and Jakob Janquart worked together to create a final product that stayed true to this year's theme. The aesthetics committee drew inspiration from the natural beauty of countryside farms to create a brightly colored canoe. Pigmented concrete was strategically applied to the canoe to create a radiant sunflower and a stunning sunset over a countryside farm. Our dedication and hard worked paid off and was noticed by all at Regionals and Nationals.

National Competition Breakdown	
Presentation	8 th
Final Product	12 th
Technical Paper	13 th
Races Overall	8 th
Women's Endurance	6 th
Men's Endurance	9 th
Women's Sprint	8 th
Men's Sprint	D.N.P.
Coed Sprint	8 th
Final Results	11 th

2017-2018

For this upcoming year, the team plans to build upon the success and new knowledge gained from *Free Range*. Research and development will continue to make even greater strides than last year, while continuing to improve our concrete mix. The hull design committee will be innovating another ground-breaking canoe design that will be tested with a prototype. Currently, the prototype is under construction. The focus of this year's boat was optimizing straight line tracking without sacrificing turning speed. Many of the boats from previous years contributed design aspects to this year's design, and the team looks forward to competing with this exciting new hull created from the culmination of past year's knowledge.

Team Leadership

Returning for another year of leadership on the concrete canoe team is senior captain Robert Herrick. Robert is a fourth year civil engineering student. He was Concrete Mix head last year. He was also part of the Men's races at Nationals and one of the three presenters. This year he will be taking on the duties of team supervisor and casting head.

Stepping into a dual leadership position as junior captains are Elizabeth Adams and Cole Schilling. Elizabeth is a third year electrical engineering student. This coming year she is taking over as the compliance and presentation committee heads. Cole is a third year civil engineering student. He, along with Robert and Elizabeth, will be overseeing all committees...

2017 Regional Competition

Michigan Technological University will be attending the ASCE North Central Conference Regional Competition at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. The Michigan Tech team is very excited to bring innovative and advanced ideas to the competition.



2017 National Competition

The ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition will be held at San Diego State University in San Diego, California from June 23rd-25th, 2018. Michigan Tech is working hard to earn the honor of representing the North Central Conference at the national level and aim to place among the top finishers again.

We would like to thank the departments at Michigan Tech for their support!

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We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous help!

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Lastly, we would like to thank our friends, family, and alumni for supporting our team!

