

# Öztürk Kuru

South Niagara Canoe Club is pleased to announce that Mr. Öztürk Kuru of Türkiye has accepted the position of Head Coach of SNCC. SNCC now continues the work to facilitate his arrival to Canada. In the meantime, Canoe/Kayak programs and Summer Camps will continue under Coach Evan Landry while Dragon Boat programs continue under Coaches Jan Corbett and Brenda Arndt. Öztürk has answered a few questions for the Catch [SNCC's monthly newsletter].



*Öztürk in 2014, Canoe Sprint Spring Cup Race, Türkiye*

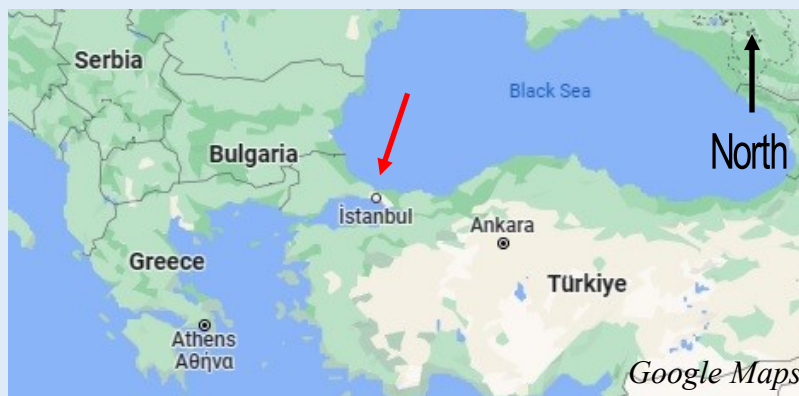
## Where are you from?

◆ I was born in Istanbul, Turkey. My first club where I started paddling is Tuzla Deniz Yıldızı Sports Club and is located in Tuzla, Istanbul.

## How did you get started in paddling sports?

◆ My sister's husband, who is also a former national kayak athlete, told me that my physical build is suitable for paddling, that I should use this

genetic advantage and try paddling. Thus, in 2006, when I was only 16 years old, I started paddling.



## How did you get started in Coaching?

◆ My 10-year national athlete life and my team captainships came to an end when I could not get an Olympic quota from Europe in 2016. After the Federation presidency elections held in December 2016, the presidency and management of the Turkish Canoe Federation deemed me suitable for the Sprint canoe kayak technical committee membership. The development reports, short and long-term plans and reports I prepared during the technical committee membership that I started in January 2017 attracted attention. In March 2017, I signed a contract with the Turkish Canoe Federation to develop the infrastructure for the advancement of canoe and kayak in Turkey, to train trainers and athletes in different cities, and to employ the young national team staff, and I started coaching.



*2018: Canoe Sprint World Cup 1, Szeged, Hungary, Turkish National Team*

*Öztürk*

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**What do you hope to accomplish in the Head Coach position at SNCC?**

◆ First of all, I see it as my first responsibility to share all my experiences about Canoe and Kayak, where I have had the opportunity to work with many country coaches and athletes for over 16 years, and everything I learned during my education in sports sciences. My short term goal is; To reach the general public in the Niagara region, to enable them to do paddling and to spread the sport to the grassroots. My long-term goal is; to train and develop performance athletes, to be a strong team that wins national competitions, and to train athletes to be selected for the national team.



*2021: Turkish Olympic Preparation Centre*



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**What else should the SNCC membership know about you?**

◆ I am someone who embraces my community as my family and home. I can work 24/7 to beautify my environment and establish order. In my spare time, I like to spend time doing research on interesting topics or areas I want to specialize in. Apart

from these, I work for my dreams and Being able to participate in the Olympic Games, known as the pinnacle of sports in the world, was one of my biggest dream in life. During my sports life, I was able to target the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games. However, I could not get a quota in the European qualifying competitions. Now, as a coach, it has been my biggest dream and goal to raise an athlete who will participate in the Olympic Games. ■



**Left:** 2015 - Performance tests for the team preparing for qualification races to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.

*Photos provided by Öztürk Kuru.*

**Right:** 2013 XVII Mediterranean Games Turkiye, K2, 1000m, 4th place by a split second.

