



USA Wildwater

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Request for Bids to Host 2012 Wildwater National Events Team Trials, Jr. Team Trials, and the National Championships

Bids are being requested from race organizing committees to host the 2012 USA Wildwater National Events. We will also consider bids for 2013 events. Organizers should choose the Wildwater event(s) that they are best suited to host and bid on one of these event(s):

- 2012 USA Wildwater National Championships
- 2012 USA Wildwater Senior Team Trials (for selecting the 2013 team)
- 2012 Eastern USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials
- 2012 Western USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials
- A combination of one or more of these events
- USA Wildwater will also consider bids for these events for 2013

Bids for 2012-13 events should be submitted in writing via email in the format described below to the Wildwater Chairman, John Pinyerd (jpinyerd@usawildwater.com) or Chris Norbury (mhc_antigen@yahoo.com) by October 12, 2011. A decision will be made on the location and date of these races and made public no later than November 15, 2011.

SUMMARY OF DATES:

- National Championships – The ideal dates for the event to be held are late April through Mid May.
- Eastern Junior Team Trials – Complete by the first weekend of June.
- Western Junior Team Trials – Same as East
- Senior Team Trials – need to be held between late July and November 1st.
- Due Date for 2012 Bids: October 12, 2011

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

All venues will consist of a two-heat sprint race and a “classic” race. A sprint racecourse should be from 400m to 800m in length (or approximately 80-150 seconds in duration). A “classic” race should not exceed 30 minutes (and are normally 12-24 minutes in length). All races must be on a minimum of Class II whitewater, with rapids not exceeding Class IV. Continuous or long rapid sections are desirable and each race should include at least one rapid of Class III or Class IV whitewater. It is always preferable to error on the side of safety on courses for Nationals and/or Junior Team Trials.

Ideally a course should allow for multiple runs in a time efficient manor in order to allow “out-of-towners” to be able to learn the course. An ideal course will also have easy access to the river and an easy shuttle. Racers ideally can walk up the sprint course without having to reload their boats. Courses without access to the river, long portages and paddle outs are less desirable.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005-06, the USA Team Trials were combined with the Eastern Jr. Team Trails and were held on the Nantahala River (Bryson City NC) in March. The event was attended by an average of 50 racers and their support teams.

The 2005-06 and 09 USA Nationals were held on the Arkansas River (Salida, CO) in mid-June and were combined with the Western Jr. Team Trails. The event was held in conjunction with the FIBArk Classic Downriver Race and Whitewater Festival and was attended by 40-60 racers and their support teams. The 2007-08 Nationals were organized by Zoar Outdoor on the Dryway section of the Deerfield and received cross-boarder participation by the Canadian racers.

In 2009 USA Sr. Team Trails were combined with USA Nationals and held in conjunction with the FIBArk Whitewater festival in Salida CO. Overall there were close to a total 100 participants in one or more of the downriver/wildwater events.

2010 and 2011 Nationals had 35-45 participants which is pretty typical for our sport.

It is believed that we can continue to improve attendance at our national level wildwater events with additional prizes (cash or merchandise) if the scheduling and promoting is done well in advance of the events. **USA Wildwater is committed to promoting our events.** We recommend that interested parties review the articles on past events on www.usawildwater.com.

WILDWATER TEAM TRIALS (SENIOR):

USA Wildwater Team Trials 2012 will be conducted in order to select a team for the 2013 World Cup/World Championship Team. **Team Trials should be held no earlier than late July and completed no later than the first weekend of November.**

JUNIOR WILDWATER TEAM TRIALS (EAST TRIALS and WEST TRIALS):

USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials will be conducted in order to select a Junior Team for the 2012 Junior Pre-World Championships. Dates are TBD but are normally in early July. Water conditions must be suitable for Juniors and Cadets but should contain at least one class III rapid. **Junior Trials must be completed no later than the first weekend of June** and should ideally be completed by mid-May. It is necessary to hold a Western Trails and an Eastern Trials for the Junior Team in order to cut down on travel and the location of these trials. Whenever possible, Junior Trials should reflect the geographic distribution of Junior Wildwater paddlers in the East and in the West. **These events are often combined with larger events such as Senior Team Trials or Nationals.**

WILDWATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The US National Championships will be conducted to select the US National Junior, Senior and Masters (40+) Wildwater Champions. The location at which Nationals is held should attempt to maximize participation in all classes with consideration given to the level of difficulty, school schedules and also consideration to the geographic distribution of wildwater paddlers in the

USA. Optimal dates are April and May. In the past there has been a provision of combining the National Championships with other large whitewater festivals and events. Prizes and/or prize money for the top racers will stimulate participation.

SANCTIONING/INSURANCE REQUIRMENTS:

All USA Wildwater national level events must sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak. For race organizers, this means that you must purchase insurance for the event through USACK who provides very cost effective insurance and is committed to helping paddle-sports. For more information contact Gerald Baboa (Gerald@usack.org) at 704-348-4330.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZER:

- Promotion/Press releases for the event (prior to the event)
- A point of contact for USA Wildwater
- Preparation and distribution of entry forms. All race forms should require, name, age, class, contact information, and email. For Team Trials event, the entry forms must include a section for designating intent to compete for a national team position.
- Organization of a pre-race meeting
- Organization of Boat Control (Team Trails only)
- Provision of reliable start and finish timers, calculating the results, and posting of results each day. Timing should consist of 2 independent start timers and 1 assistant to release boats. Finishing timing should consist of 2 independent timers and an assistant to write down bib numbers and times. A best practice is for the start and finish to be able to communicate via 2 way radios or cell phones in order to troubleshoot any changes.
- Provision of safety coverage at Class 3 and greater rapids and in sections of the river where self rescue may be difficult. Additional consideration should be given for Juniors.
- Organization of a post race meeting to announce results (and at Team Trials team members will need to meet to do Team paperwork)
- Organization of press/publicity coverage to showcase these premier wildwater racing events in the USA
- Entry fees will normally be in the range of \$25-65 to cover costs of facilities, permitting if necessary, safety staff, timers/timing system, and prizes for top 3 in each class
- USA Wildwater will provide a separate how to Guide for Running a National Level Wildwater Race to help serve as a “checklist”.

REQUIRED BID INFORMATION:

Organizations desiring to host one or more of the events must respond in writing to jpinverd@usawildwater.com and/or mhc_antigen@yahoo.com with the following information by October 12th:

- 1. Event(s) being bid on:**
- 2. Proposed dates:**
- 3. Name of race organizer (including details of races organized in the past):**
- 4. Name of River:**
- 5. Location of nearest town and distance from the river for lodging and race meetings:**
- 6. Nearest major airport (and distance):**

- 7. Description of the river that contains the following information:**
 - a. Section of the river where the events will be held**
 - b. Average flow and rating of rapids**
 - c. Water control (dam or natural flow)**
 - d. Accessibility to both Sprint and Classic courses**
 - e. Any user fees or special access permits required for racers**
 - f. Length of course**
 - g. Details of river shuttle**
 - h. River traffic (Commercial rafting and/or play boaters)**
 - i. Amount of water time/days for practice**
 - j. Average weather at time of race**
 - k. Description of other wildwater or downriver races normally held on this section of river**
- 8. Number of know paddlers regularly racing wildwater in the area and an the anticipated turnout from these paddlers (or the number of racers that attended wildwater races in the past)**
- 9. Any other information that may relate the Team Trials event (Is the trials to be part of another regular local event, or is there other event activities information that you would like us to consider?)**

Please direct any questions and all responses to John Pinyerd (jpinyerd@usawildwater.com) or Chris Norbury (mhc_antigen@yahoo.com) no later than October 12th.