



USA Wildwater

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Request for Bids to Host 2008-09 Wildwater National Events Team Trials, Jr. Team Trials, and the National Championships

Bids are being requested from race organizing committees to host the 2008 USA Wildwater National Events. We will also consider bids for 2009 events. Organizers should choose the Wildwater event(s) that they are best suited to host and bid on one of these event(s):

- 2008 Team Trials
- Eastern USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials
- Western USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials
- 2008 USA Wildwater National Championships (this event will also be 2009 Team Trials).
- 2009 USA Wildwater National Championships

Bids for 2008 events should be submitted in writing via email in the format described below to the Wildwater Chairman, John Pinyerd (jpinyerd@cs.com) by November 1, 2007. A decision will be made on the location and date of these races and made public no later than November, 15th 2007.

SUMMARY OF DATES:

- 2008 Team Trials – Complete by 1st weekend of April 08. The ideal date is the last weekend of March (because our first World Cup is scheduled May 15th)
- 2008 and 2009 Eastern Junior Team Trials – Complete by the first weekend of June.
- 2008 and 2009 Western Junior Team Trials – Same as East.
- 2008 USA Wildwater National Championships – The ideal dates are late July through early August. The event will also double as our Team Trials for 09 (because the 09 World Cups are in February).
- 2009 USA Wildwater National Championships – Will need to be held in the summer months when school is out (with the exclusion of early to mid July when the Jr Worlds are being held). Ideal dates are the 2nd or 3rd weekend in June, the last weekend of July, or the first weekend of August 2009.
- Bids for 2008 events are due by November 1st.

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.

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 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 racers and their support teams. The 2007 Nationals were organized by Zoar Outdoor on the Dryway section of the Deerfield and received cross-boarder participation by the Canadian racers.

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 2008 will be conducted in order to select a team for the 2008 World Championships in Italy and for the 2008 World Cups held elsewhere. **Team Trials should be held no earlier than mid-March and completed no later than the first weekend of April** in order to allow time for athletes to organize travel. The last weekend of March is considered the optimal date to host (Senior) Team Trials.

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 2008 Junior World Championships in Switzerland which is planned for early to mid-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.** For example, the Eastern USA Junior Team Trials were combined with (Senior) Team Trials 2005 and 2006 and Western Trials were combined with USA Nationals.

WILDWATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The US National Championships will be conducted to select the US National Junior, Senior and Masters (40+) Wildwater Champions for 2008. 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 late July through early August. 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 REQUIREMENTS:

All 2008 USA Wildwater national level events must be 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
- A point of contact for USA Wildwater
- Preparation and distribution of entry forms
- 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
- Provision of safety cover in sections of the river where self rescue may be difficult
- Organization of a post race meeting to announce results (and have team members meet to do paperwork at Team Trials)
- Organization of press/publicity coverage to showcase the premier wildwater racing events in the USA

REQUIRED BID INFORMATION:

Organizations desiring to host one or more of the events must respond in writing to jpinyerd@cs.com with the following information by November 1st:

- 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@cs.com) no later than November 1st.