



Dear National Federations, freestyle athletes and team leaders,

It is my pleasure to cordially invite you to Bryson City, North Carolina, USA to compete in the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships this September 2-8. This event is hosted and organized by the Nantahala Gorge Organizing Committee, a task force made up of local paddling clubs, businesses, and public entities.

The Nantahala Gorge Organizing Committee is proud to announce that the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships will utilize the new state-of-the-art **Freestyle Digital Scoring System** to provide accurate, instantaneous scoring and increase spectator engagement. We will also be hosting an **Outdoor Festival and Appalachian Heritage Expo** featuring traditional crafts and artists' demonstrations, as well as live music, interactive games and contests for the whole family. Coinciding with the event, Nantahala Gorge Organizing Committee is also planning a variety of **youth activities**, and are seeking athlete who wish to be involved in recruiting young people to their sport.

Western North Carolina is known for its spectacular lakes, rivers and creeks, and also boasts a rich cultural and historic heritage. While you are here, we encourage you to visit the Cherokee Indian Reservation, home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee. Smoky Mountain National Park, known for its breathtaking views and accessible hikes is only a short drive away, and the 3,500 km long Appalachian Trail passes directly through the World Championships venue at Nantahala Outdoor Center.

The Nantahala Gorge Organizing Committee is committed to making your visit enjoyable. Please browse through the information below for answers to some of your travel and event-related questions. If we can be of further assistance as you plan your trip to the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships, please feel free to email us at info@freestylekayaking2013.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in pink ink that reads "Zuzana Vanha".

Zuzana Vanha
NGOC Event Director

2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships

Athlete and Team Newsletter

Event Location

Nantahala Outdoor Center

13077 Hwy 19 West

Bryson City, NC 28713

GPS Coordinates: 35.331048, -83.591843

Driving Directions to Nantahala Outdoor Center

<http://www.noc.com/whitewater-rafting/nantahala-river/driving-directions/>

2013 Wave Update



The 2013 Wave was host to the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup in September 2012, and boasted the highest scoring run to date in an ICF Freestyle competition – Peter Csonka blew the crowds away with his final run of 1538.

NGOC is currently assessing the wave and planning minor changes that take into account athlete feedback from 2012 World Cup. We're excited to see more great rides this September!

What to Expect at the 2013 Freestyle Worlds

All-inclusive Event Venue

The 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships will be held at the **Nantahala Outdoor Center**, in the heart of the premier outdoor recreation destination in the Southeastern United States. Athletes and

spectators will benefit from: two on-campus **restaurants**, free **WiFi**, onsite **Outfitter's Store**, onsite athlete **lodging** and **meal plan**.

State-of-the-art Digital Scoring System

Freestyle's newest, most powerful scoring system delivers immediate results to athletes and spectators, enhancing competition as well as spectator involvement.



Youth Programming

We all agree that it is vital to increase youth participation for the growth and health of the sport. Local youth will be visiting the event with their schools to learn about freestyle, whitewater, and conservation.

GET INVOLVED: Participate in the **2013 Freestyle Adopt an Athlete Program**. All this requires is a one-hour commitment to speak to a classroom about your home and why you love your sport. In return, our local students will share with you about their lives, accompany your team in the Opening Ceremonies, and cheer for you at the event. Help change the life of a local child, and create good PR for Freestyle! Interested athletes, please email info@freestylekayaking2013.com

Outdoor Festival & Appalachian Heritage Expo



Athletes and spectators alike will enjoy live music, interactive contests, games, and half-time shows, artist's demonstrations and local crafts.

Learn about traditional Cherokee dances and mythology, discover the unique flora and fauna of Appalachia, and enjoy one helluva party by the river.

Local Rivers & Creeks



Cascades of the Nantahala

(Photo left) Just 10 miles upstream of the 2013 Wave, the Cascades offer fun class IV-V whitewater. Don't miss the special release August 14th.

Cheoah River

Just around the corner in Robbinsville, the Cheoah is a world-class river. Big waves, long rapids and sweet drops are sure to make you smile. (Class IV)

Green River Narrows

About 1.5 miles from the Nantahala, the Green is one of the signature runs in the Southeast.

Chattooga

Another southeastern classic. The Chattooga has something for everyone, from class I-II float trips to class IV-V drops in a beautiful wilderness canyon.

Check out the [American Whitewater](#) page for more information about North Carolina's legendary rivers and creeks.

Accreditation

Accreditation for the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships will be \$134.66 US. Accreditation will be managed via the ICF ISIS system. Payment can be wire transferred or paid onsite in cash. \$15 will be added to accreditations paid via wire transfer to cover bank costs.

- All athletes and team staff will need to register via the ISIS system.
- All athletes and team staff will need to provide a valid passport-sized photo.

As it becomes clear how many athletes your National Federation will bring to the vent, please take a moment to fill out the **Numerical Entry Form**, attached to this newsletter, and return it to the Organizer at info@freestylekayaking2013.com. This form must be submitted by your National Federation no later than July 15.

Draft Event Schedule

The DRAFT Event Schedule below is subject to change at organizer's discretion.

August 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nations Training begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation Pick-up begins Boat Control begins
August 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation Check begins in Athlete Village (athletes / team staff will need accreditation to access Teams Areas)
August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Leader's Meeting Volunteer Meeting
September 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nations Training ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation Pick-up ends (1 hour after final training slot) Opening Ceremonies – Bryson City Team Leader's Reception
September 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Rounds begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary rounds begin Youth Programming @ Event Venue Live Music
September 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Rounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary rounds Youth Programming @ Event Venue Head-to-Head Race with Cash Purse – Bryson City Live Music in Bryson City
September 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Rounds end Quarter Finals begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary rounds Youth Programming @ Event Venue Live Music
September 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter Finals end Semifinals begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter Finals SUP Head-to-Head through 2013 Wave
September 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semifinals end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semifinals 8-Ball Race through 2013 Wave VIP Reception Athlete Party
September 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finals Awards & Closing Ceremonies Live Music

Travel Information

Air Travel

The recommended airport of the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships is **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**. This airport is relatively close to the venue, is able to accommodate kayaks, and often offers affordable rates from many international destinations. For directions from the Atlanta Airport to the event venue (Nantahala Outdoor Center) click [HERE](#).

Regional Airport Information

[Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport \(ATL\)](#), Atlanta, GA

Drive time to NOC: 3 hr, 25min. (180 miles)

Auto Rental: <http://www.atlanta-airport.com/groundtransportation/CarsLimosTaxis.aspx>

[Charlotte Douglas International Airport](#), Charlotte, NC

Drive time to NOC: 3 hrs, 25 min. (185 miles)

Auto Rental: <http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Airport/GroundTransportation/Pages/default.aspx>

[Nashville International Airport \(BNA\)](#), Nashville, TN

Drive time to NOC: 4 hrs, 37 min. (252 miles)

Auto Rental: http://www.nashintl.com/ground_trans/car_rental.aspx

Ground Transportation

Western North Carolina is a rural area, and Swain County does not offer public transportation. All athletes are advised that the best way to travel in this area is to rent a van or car for your team. Rental cars are available at all of the major airports – please see links, above. Event organizers will work with teams to provide a shuttle to and from **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** if necessary. Please write to info@freestylekayaking2013.com to inquire about athlete shuttle service schedules and fees.

Visa Information

For those athletes, teams, and support staff who need to obtain visas to travel to the USA, please contact [Gerald Babao](#) with USA Canoe/Kayak for assistance with this process. General instructions appear on the following page.

- Your governing body/team leader should compile all relevant athlete/team information, including:
 - o First and last name
 - o Date of birth
 - o Passport number
 - o Dates you would like to spend in the United States.
- Gerald will reply to this letter with a personalized invitation for all individuals listed.
- All visa applications must be submitted on-line via the US Embassy or Consulate web page in your country.
 - o Each individual must submit an application.
 - o If possible, submissions of your team's applications should be coordinated as a group, preferably by your sport's governing body.
 - o This process should be done as soon as possible to avoid processing delays.

Lodging

On-Site Lodging:

- All NOC cabins have been booked by teams at this time.
- Base Camp available for **Athletes and Support Staff only** August 26th-September 8th
 - \$5.00/night
 - Bunkhouse style lodging with communal kitchen and bathroom facilities
 - Only for athletes and team staff, no family or friend lodging available
 - Make reservations with NOC at 1.888.905.7238
 - **Space is limited! Reserve your spot in advance!**
- **NO CAMPING** is permitted on NOC property. NOC does not have the appropriate facilities to provide safe and comfortable camping. We apologize for any inconvenience, and advise all athletes that wish to camp to choose from the list of campsites and lodging partners, below.

Closest Camping to Event Venue:

- [Wesser Creek Campground](#) – .9 mi away
200 Wesser Creek Rd. Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-8708
 - \$10/person per night
 - Ages 5-9 \$5.00; 4 & under are free
 - Reserve before August 1st for better availability
- [Lost Mine Campground](#) – 1.0 mi away
1000 Silvermine Rd. Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-6445
 - \$9.00/person per night
 - Kids aged 6 & under are free
 - \$18.00 minimum per site
 - \$2.00 extra charge for electricity hookup
 - Reserve before June 15th for better availability
- [Turkey Creek Campground](#) – 6.4 mi away
135 Turkey Creek Rd. Almond, NC 28713
828-488-8966 info@turkey-creek.com
 - \$10.00/person per night + \$4.00/vehicle fee
 - Ages 6-16 \$6.00/night; 5 & under free
 - \$3.00-5.00 extra charge for AMP hookups
 - Stay a week, get one night free
 - Reserve before August 1st for better availability

Lodging Partners of the 2013 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships:

- [Carolina Mountain Vacations](#) – 13.9 mi away
40 Greenlee Street Bryson City, NC 28713

- 828-488-7500 info@carolinamountainvacations.com
- **[Cherokee Mountain Cabins](#)** – 14 mi away
61 Bear Creek Road Nantahala, NC 28781
866-722-2246
 - **[Ela Campgrounds](#)** – 8.9 mi away
5100 Ela Road Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-2410 info@elacampground.com
 - **[Fontana Village Resort](#)** – 26 mi away
300 Woods Road Fontana Dam, NC 28733
828-498-2211 reservations@fontanavillage.com
 - **[Fryemont Inn](#)** – 13.8 mi away
245 Fryemont Street Bryson City, NC 28713
800-845-4879 fryemont@dnet.net
 - **[Great Smoky Cabin Rentals](#)** – cabin distance varies
184 Everett Street Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-4630
 - **[Holiday Inn Express](#)** – 35.3 mi away
130 Holiday Drive Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-1111 hiemurphync@yahoo.com
 - **[Nantahala Cabins](#)** – cabin distance varies
580 Nantahala Cabins Lane Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-1622 info@nantahalacabins.com
 - **[Riverbend Lodging](#)** – 12.7 mi away
470 Hwy 19S Bryson City, NC 28713
877-272-3125 riverbendlodging@aol.com
 - **[Settlers Mountain](#)** – cabin distance varies
340 East Alarka Road Bryson City, NC 28713
800-476-8027 info@settlersmountain.com
 - **[Sleep Inn](#)** – 13.1 mi away
500 Veterans Blvd Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-0326 sleepinn500@gmail.com
 - **[Watershed Cabins](#)** – cabin distance varies
300 Everett St Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-3688 reserve@watershedcabins.com

Area Outdoor Activities

The area surrounding the Nantahala Gorge is rich with outdoor activities. Visitors may enjoy:

[Great Smoky Mountains Railroad](#): See the Smokies in style.

[Endless River Adventures](#): Paddlesports expertise, good folks.

[Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#): Bears, views, waterfalls.

[Joyce Kilmer National Forest](#): Seriously big trees, just a short drive from the Cheoah River.

[Tsali Recreational Area](#): Great mountain biking and running trails on the banks of Lake Fontana.