

# Wildwater Canoeing World Championships

April 20-30, 2020



**Nantahala**  
**2020**

*ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships*

Hosted by Nantahala Racing Club and Nantahala Outdoor Center

[wildwaterworlds.com](http://wildwaterworlds.com)

**Nantahala Racing Club**

13077 Highway 19 West  
Bryson City, North Carolina 28713

**Phone** +1 828 488 7285

**Mita Coker**, Executive Director

Wildwater World Championship Hosting Committee

December 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Nantahala Racing Club, we are pleased to extend a formal invitation to your National Federation to train for and participate in the 2020 ICF Senior & Masters Wildwater Canoeing World Championships to be held on the Nantahala River near Bryson City, North Carolina on April 26-30, 2020. The official event website is [wildwaterworlds.com](http://wildwaterworlds.com). This premier Wildwater event is slated to draw over 150 Wildwater athletes from over 30 countries around the world to the Nantahala Gorge, located in the heart of the North Carolina Smoky Mountains.

For assistance with Visa Introduction Letters please contact Kelsey Bracewell at [kbracewell@americancanoe.org](mailto:kbracewell@americancanoe.org). For competition-specific questions, please contact Chris Hipgrave at [chris.hipgrave@noc.com](mailto:chris.hipgrave@noc.com). For event and travel-related questions please contact either myself at [mita.coker@noc.com](mailto:mita.coker@noc.com) or Jae Jackson at [jae.jackson@noc.com](mailto:jae.jackson@noc.com).

We look forward to welcoming the world's top Wildwater competitors to the United States and sharing this terrific event with the international paddling community. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

**Mita Coker**,  
Executive Director  
Wildwater World Championship  
Hosting Committee

**Chris Hipgrave**,  
Wildwater Committee  
Representative

## General Information

### Nantahala Gorge and Bryson City, NC, USA

The Nantahala Gorge is located in Swain County, 13 miles outside of the county seat: Bryson City, North Carolina. Named among the top 10 paddling towns in the nation, Bryson City is nestled at the foot of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited National Park in the United States, and famous for the mist that settles in its valleys as well rich biodiversity of vegetation and wildlife. The area is a popular tourist destination and is renowned for a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including rafting and a variety of paddlesports, biking, zip-lining, rock climbing, horseback riding, hiking, and camping.

The region is steeped in cultural and historical significance. An important tribal area for the Cherokee people, many rivers, mountains, and other landmarks still bear their Cherokee names. The word Nantahala, for example, means "Land of the Noon-day Sun." Today, Cherokee arts and crafts, as well as other traditional crafts, can be found throughout the region. Information regarding various cultural attractions can be found on regional Chamber of Commerce pages, of which a directory can be found at [www.greatsmokies.com](http://www.greatsmokies.com). For those looking for some contemporary culture, Swain County offers numerous restaurants, bars, artist's studios, and galleries. Live music, including the traditional bluegrass that the area is known for, is widely played in and around the town of Bryson City, as well as all over the area immediate to the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

**Swain County Area:** 541 sq. miles (1,400 km<sup>2</sup>) **Population:** 14,294 (as of 2017)

**Geographic location:** 35°25'37"N 83°26'52"W

**Time Zone:** North Carolina is located on the east coast of the United States, and is in the US Eastern Standard Time Zone (EST). EST is five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT-5). During the late spring and summer months, when daylight savings time is observed, EDT is moved one hour forward, while GMT remains the same (GMT-4).

**Bryson City elevation:** 1736 feet (529 m)

**Highest Point in the County:** Clingmans Dome, a popular tourist destination, has an elevation of 6,643 feet (2024.8 m).

**Climate:** In April, daytime temperatures will rarely exceed 75°F (24°C), and will usually fall into the 50s (13°C) at night. This is typically a wet month often experiencing more than 10 days of rain.

**Electricity:** 150V

**Telephones:** The international dialing code for the United States is +1 (or 00 1). For emergency calls within the United States, dial 911.

**Healthcare:** There are a number of public healthcare facilities in Swain County. The closest facility to the Nantahala Gorge is the Swain Medical Center, located in Bryson City. (Phone: [838.488.4205](tel:838.488.4205))



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## General Information

**Visas:** Some athletes and teams will need entry visas to visit the United States. To aid in the visa application process, the ACA will draft a personalized letter of invitation for athletes and delegates, who will add this to the materials they present to the consulate or embassy. To obtain an invitation letter, the federation may write to [kbracewell@americancanoe.org](mailto:kbracewell@americancanoe.org).

**Customs Quotas & Regulations:** Limits are set on the import of certain goods into the United States. All passengers arriving on an international flight will be asked to declare which goods they are bringing and may be taxed on their items.

**Embassies & Consulates:** Your embassy will be able to offer assistance in case you encounter difficulty while you are in the United States. You may find a list of international embassies in the United States on the [U.S. Department of State website](#).

**International Airports:** The recommended airport of the 2020 ICF Senior & Masters Wildwater Canoeing 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](#).

**Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Atlanta, GA**

Drive time to NOC: 3.5 hrs (180 miles)

**Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT), Charlotte, NC**

Drive time to NOC: 3.5 hrs (185 miles)

**Asheville Regional Airport (AVL), Asheville, NC**

Drive time to NOC: 1.5 hrs (81 miles)

**Transportation:** Renting a car is the recommended method of travel in Western North Carolina. Because this is a rural area with little public transportation, athletes will need their own transportation to have the best possible experience during their stay in the United States. Car rental is available at all major airports. Please see the airport information above for links to this information. For information about public transit in this area, visit [www.swainpublictransit.com](http://www.swainpublictransit.com) or call [828.488.3213](tel:828.488.3213)

## Competition Venue

The 2020 ICF Senior & Masters Wildwater Canoeing World Championships will be hosted at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, located in the Nantahala Gorge, 13 miles outside of Bryson City.

**Nantahala River:** The majority of the Nantahala is cold, splashy class II whitewater. Nantahala Falls is the class III exception to that rule. The Nantahala's most notable feature is its dam controlled, cold water, which is 52° F (11° C) year-round. The river usually runs 7 days a week. The Nantahala is completely roadside along US HWY 19/74. The US Forest Service maintains put-in and take-outs.

**Facilities:** Accommodations at the Nantahala Outdoor Center include lodging, restaurants, boat storage, running, and biking trails.

## Athlete Accomodation

### Onsite Team Lodging

**Athlete Village:** Hostel-style lodging, offers group kitchen, dining, and bathroom facilities. Village lodging does not come with bed linens, so please plan accordingly. Village lodging is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, prices starting at \$20/night, plus taxes and fees.

**NOC Cabins:** Includes private kitchen, bathroom and dining area. Onsite cabins are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, prices starting at \$200/night, per team, plus taxes & fees.

**NOC Camping:** Located 200 yards from the Nantahala River, the Platform Tents are waterproof, raised, and have room for 70+ people. Tents come with a fire ring & onsite flush toilet and are the most affordable option. Platform tents are arranged into 2 groups with accommodations for 35+ people per grouping.

**Off-Campus Lodging:** Off-site lodging is available in the Nantahala Gorge and Bryson City, as well as in the surrounding communities. For a list of local lodging establishments that are supporting the 2020 ICF Senior & Masters Canoeing World Championships, please visit our website.

For questions regarding onsite team accommodations, to book a room at NOC's Basecamp or to reserve a camping spot, please email [jae.jackson@noc.com](mailto:jae.jackson@noc.com).

## Training

Official Training period will begin on April 20, 2020 and end April 25, 2020.

**IMPORTANT** – Teams must register by March 15th, 2020 to be included on the Official Training schedule. To register, please email [mita.coker@noc.com](mailto:mita.coker@noc.com). with this form: [noc.formstack.com/forms/training\\_period\\_registration](http://noc.formstack.com/forms/training_period_registration)

**Training during the year:** Training on the Nantahala is included in each Accreditation Fee. The Nantahala River is dam controlled and will run every day during the spring of 2020. A Nantahala Scheduled Release Calendar for 2020 will be available soon and will represent Minimum Guaranteed Release for each day. Athletes should be aware that it takes the water approximately 2.5 hours to stabilize at the Nantahala Outdoor Center following the start of the release. It will begin to visibly subside approximately 1.5 hours following the end of the release. Actual releases are often much longer than what the schedule indicates. An accurate three-day release forecast will be available on the Wildwater Worlds Website soon. Please keep in mind that the Nantahala River is heavily rafted in late April.

## Regional Training Sites

**Tuckaseegee River** – Cullowhee, NC (45 minutes by car)

Info: [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3391](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3391)

**Ocoee River** – Middle Ocoee, TN (1.5 hours by car)

Info: [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1780/#main](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1780/#main)

**Pigeon River** – Hartford, TN (1.5 hours by car)

Info: [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1782](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1782)

In addition to several excellent whitewater runs, there are bountiful whitewater rivers of various difficulty in the area. American Whitewater provides in-depth information, driving directions, and flow information at [www.AmericanWhitewater.com](http://www.AmericanWhitewater.com).

## Competition Rules

The 2020 ICF Senior & Masters Wildwater Canoeing World Championships will be run in accordance with the current ICF Wildwater Competition Rules.

### Categories

**Men:** K1, C1, C2; K1Masters, C1 Masters, C2 Masters

**Women:** K1, C1, C2; K1Masters, C1 Masters, C2 Masters

### Entry Forms & Deadlines

**Please Note:** Numerical and Nominal Forms will not be available through the ICF SDP system or on the Wildwater Worlds website until January 1, 2020

**Numerical Entries:** Please either download the Numerical Entry Form or complete it on the ICF SDP system. Numerical Entry deadline is March 5, 2020. Completed forms should be sent to [sdp@canoeicf.com](mailto:sdp@canoeicf.com).

**Nominal Entries:** Must be done via the [ICF Sports Data Platform \(SDP\)](#). Please contact [sdp@canoeicf.com](mailto:sdp@canoeicf.com) if you have any questions regarding entries. The Nominal Entry deadline is April 6, 2020.

## Accreditation

Accreditation passes will be required to access on-campus parking, teams & competitor's areas. **Accreditation system opens January 1, 2020 and closes April 12, 2020.**

Accreditation received after this date will incur an additional \$30.00 USD processing fee.

Accreditations will be accepted only via ICF SDP. For help using the SDP system, please reference: [www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/sdp\\_competition\\_entries\\_and\\_pre-accreditation\\_-\\_quick\\_guide.pdf](http://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/sdp_competition_entries_and_pre-accreditation_-_quick_guide.pdf) or email [icf@canoeicf.com](mailto:icf@canoeicf.com).

**Accreditation Fee:** \$110.00 USD per Athlete (Aa), Team Leader (AC), Technical Staff (Ao), Medical Staff (Am), or Team Assistants or other Delegates. All personnel staying in on-campus Team Lodging or accessing Teams areas must have accreditation. Accreditation can be paid via bank transfer. Accreditations paid via bank transfer should arrive no later than March 15, 2020. All transaction costs are the responsibility of the NF.

Banking and wire transfer details will be available on [wildwaterworlds.com](http://wildwaterworlds.com) on January 1, 2020.



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## Press & Media Information

Various sponsorship and media opportunities are available leading up to and during the 2020 Wildwater Worlds. Press, media, and sponsorship inquiries can be directed to [media@noc.com](mailto:media@noc.com) with the subject line "Wildwater Worlds."

## Important Contacts

### Organizing Committee

Ms. Mita Coker

13077 Hwy 19 West

Bryson City, NC 28713

**Email:** [mita.coker@noc.com](mailto:mita.coker@noc.com)

**Website:** [www.noc.com/events](http://www.noc.com/events)

### ACA Contact

Kelsey Bracewell

**Email:** [kbracewell@americancanoe.org](mailto:kbracewell@americancanoe.org)

### Wildwater Hosting Committee

Mr. Chris Hipgrave

2000 Jonesborough Rd

Erwin, TN 37650

**Email:** [chris.hipgrave@noc.com](mailto:chris.hipgrave@noc.com)

**Website:** [www.pyranha.com](http://www.pyranha.com)

### Nantahala Outdoor Center

Ms. Jae Jackson

13077 Highway 19 West

Bryson City, NC 28713

**Email:** [jae.jackson@noc.com](mailto:jae.jackson@noc.com)

**Website:** [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com)



## Provisional Schedule

### Friday, April 24

10:00 – 17:00 Boat Control by Nations  
 10:00 – 16:00 Official river training  
 18:00 Team Leaders Meeting

### Saturday, April 25

10:00 – 14:00 Boat Control By Nations  
 10:00 – 16:00 Official river training  
 18:00 Team Leaders Meeting

### Sunday, April 26

11:00 – 14:00 Opening Ceremony  
 Emergency Boat Control

### Monday, April 27

09:00 – 11:00 Individual Wildwater Classic Race C1M, K1W, K1M, C1W  
 13:00 – 15:00 Individual Masters Wildwater Classic Race C1M, K1W, K1M, C1W,

### Tuesday, April 28

09:00 – 11:00 Team Wildwater Classic Race  
 13:00 – 15:00 Team Wildwater Sprint Race  
 16:00 Classic Worlds & Masters Medal Ceremony

### Wednesday, April 29

09:00 – 11:00 Preliminary Sprint Heats (1 And 2) K1W, C1M, K1M  
 13:00 – 15:00 Preliminary Sprint Heat (1 And 2) C1W, C2M, C2W  
 16:00 Classic & Sprint Team Medal Ceremony

### Thursday, April 30

09:00 – 11:00 Sprint Final C1W, C2M, C2W  
 13:00 – 15:00 Sprint Final K1W, C1M, K1M  
 16:00 Sprint Medal Ceremony  
 17:00 Closing Ceremony



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