

Nathan Benderson Park to Host 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Rowing



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SARASOTA-BRADENTON, Fla. – Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota-Bradenton, Fla., has been selected as the site for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Rowing, USRowing announced Friday. The special announcement was made from the finish line of the 2015 USRowing Youth National Championships being held this weekend.

According to USRowing director of high performance Curtis Jordan, the trials are scheduled to take place April 18-24, 2016, on the course that will also be the venue for the 2017 World Rowing Championships.

Seven Olympic-class rowing events will be contested during the weeklong regatta including the men's and women's single sculls, men's and women's double sculls, lightweight men's and women's double sculls and men's quadruple sculls.

“We have a very excited, eager local organizing committee that is bringing a lot of energy to this event, and we are working very hard between SANCA (Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center, Inc.) and USRowing to make this a bigger and more exciting Olympic Trials than we have had, with the goal of highlighting our sport and our athletes,” Jordan said.

Developed in recent years with the intention of becoming a world-class rowing and water sports venue that can attract major events from across the country and the world, Sarasota-Bradenton's Nathan Benderson Park has hosted several high-caliber events including USRowing's Masters National Championships and Southeast Junior District Championships, the Florida Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships, Florida Scholastic Rowing Association Sculling and

Sweep Championships, Sarasota Invitational and Sarasota-Bradenton Head Race.

“Our partnership with USRowing is significant to us,” said SANCA's chief operating officer Paul Blackketter. “We appreciate this opportunity to host such an incredible, prestigious event.

“The fact that we are given this opportunity is extraordinary, and the fact that USRowing has the confidence in our team to put on such a great event is something that we appreciate and we will do everything in our power to deliver and exceed those expectations. We see this as one more step for the vision of this course to be one of the top rowing venues in the world,” Blackketter said.

“To USRowing and to the sport, Sarasota-Bradenton marks a new generation and new opportunity for venues and events in the United States, where it's not just what's just going on out on the water, but the engagement of the fan base and the engagement with the American community,” said USRowing chief executive officer Glenn Merry.

“We chose Sarasota because it is uniquely positioned to have television coverage from both the road and the water and because there is a community that wants to come out see this iconic Olympic brand in front of them for the first time. It's the top world-class level course in the country, and it's going to be home to the 2017 World Rowing Championships, so what better way to kick off the interest around that than with the selection of our team for the 2016 Olympic Games,” Merry said.

The 2016 Olympic Games are scheduled for August 5-21, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

USRowing

USRowing is a nonprofit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the governing body for the sport of rowing in the United States. USRowing has 75,000 individual members and 1,200 member organizations, offering rowing programs for all.