



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Calling all Wrestling Fans: Oregon State Fair Expo Center Hosts the West Coast World Championship for K-8 Wrestlers**

SALEM, ORE. — Travel Salem is pleased to announce the Oregon State Fair Expo Center will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Rocky Mountain National's West Coast World Championship* on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Expo Center at 2330 17<sup>th</sup> street in Salem at 8:30 a.m. The event is one of the highest profile K-8<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling competitions in the West Coast region and the venue offers competitions held on 10 mats throughout the center with a seating capacity of 4,000 spectators.

Last year, over 500 athletes competed from across the Western U.S. including members of several mat clubs from Marion and Polk counties. Participating clubs this year include the Dallas Mat Club, Team Aggression and Salem Elite Mat Club, among others.

The competition is a rare opportunity for elementary-aged youth to get a taste for competing against some of the best youth wrestlers in the West at an event judged by certified High School wrestling referees. This is the second year the Oregon State Fair Expo Center hosted the event.

“We can look forward to building something very special for the great people in Oregon our second time around,” said Ed Gutierrez, director of Rocky Mountain Nationals events. “Oregon offers up some of the best wrestling in the country and we want to complement what they are already doing, but add a different flavor. We adopted the slogan to inspire, encourage and recognize these kids. It’s inspiring to see these little guys compete. We make the competition more than an event, but an unforgettable weekend.”

Mat clubs can enter their wrestling teams online for \$36.00 before Sunday, December 5 at midnight. If a wrestler does not make weight, he can pay another registration fee of \$20 to declare another weight. Late registration is \$56 at weigh-ins.

**For participants-** Weigh-ins begin on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 p.m. in the arena of the Expo Center.

**General admission** to the event is \$12. Receive a \$2 discount when you bring in a can of food to donate to the Marion-Polk Food Share.

**To volunteer for the event** contact Debbie McCune at 503-581-4325 ext. 28 or email her at [dmmcune@travelsalem.com](mailto:dmmcune@travelsalem.com). RMN needs help organizing, distributing information and awards, setting up, tearing down and coordinating things throughout the day.

**Rocky Mountain Nationals (RMN)** is a youth wrestling program based in Colorado which provides opportunity for youth to participate in wrestling championships which encourages their development not only as athletes but as students as well. Involvement with wrestling and sports in general has been shown to increase youths' self esteem, confidence, and social skills. For more information, visit [www.rockymountainnationals.com](http://www.rockymountainnationals.com) or contact Ed Gutierrez at 303-635-1549.

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*\*\*\*Travel Salem is a non-profit organization that promotes Salem and Marion and Polk counties for leisure tourism and convention and event business. The local annual economic impact of the greater Salem area visitor industry is \$452 million. Travel Salem manages the Official Salem Area Travel Café/Visitors Center located at the historic Grand Hotel building (181 High St. NE, Salem), two I-5 satellite visitor information locations located at the Best Western Mill Creek Inn (3125 Ryan Dr. SE) and the Red Lion Hotel (3301 Market St. NE), and the Official Salem Area Website [www.TravelSalem.com](http://www.TravelSalem.com)\*\*\**