

Oregon

2015 Gold National Championships Headed West to Salem

19 Mar, 2015



The **Amateur Softball Association** (ASA) of America and USA Softball announced that the 2015 ASA/USA Girls' 16-Under Fast Pitch GOLD National Championships, one of the most prominent tournaments in Junior Olympic (JO) play, will be hosted by the Oregon ASA. The 16U GOLD, which will be held in **Salem, Oregon** is slated for July 19-25, 2015.

Known as the "Softball Capital of the Northwest", Salem will host the 16U GOLD at Wallace Marine Park. The complex features five playing fields and is the original "star designed" complex in the nation. Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex opened in 1986 and was renovated in 2007, when the City of Salem Public Works Recreation Services took over running the park full time. The infields and out fields were also refurbished in 2012 after the complex was completely flooded. All fields at the complex are lighted, have scoreboards and bleacher seating, with Les Schwab Championship Stadium Field as the main field for championship games. The complex sits at the edge of the beautiful Willamette River and is a short walk across the pedestrian walking bridge to Salem's Riverfront Park which sits on the edge of Salem's

vibrant downtown.

"Salem looks forward to welcoming the 2015 16U ASA/USA GOLD participants, their families and the high caliber of play during the tournament," said Mayor of Salem Anna Peterson. "Salem is a major softball City and our partnership with this tournament is proof that Salem and softball go hand in hand."

As the capital city, Salem offers visitors a variety of restaurants, attractions and historic sites and museums. Rich with historic sites, tax-free shopping, museums, galleries, parks, wineries, and outdoor recreation, Salem offers several historic properties and attractions that are located within walking distance of downtown. The city has a long history with ASA/USA Softball and has hosted 24 ASA National Championships; including the 2003 18U GOLD National Championship and seven girls' fast pitch Western Territory National Championships. This year Salem, also known as Softball City USA, will host the 2015 ASA Men's Fast Pitch Nationals for divisions A, B and C West on September 5-7, 2015.

"It is an honor to host the 2015 16U ASA/USA GOLD in Salem," said Angie Morris, CEO of Travel Salem, Marion and Polk Counties Destination Marketing Organization. "In Salem we recognize the tremendous dedication it takes from the players to get to this level, and Travel Salem will do everything in our power to make sure this an experience that the players and their families will never forget."

Locations of other 2015 ASA National Championships were announced by ASA/USA Softball following the 82nd Annual Council Meeting last November. A full list of National Championships can be found at USASoftball.com.

About The Amateur Softball Association: The Amateur Softball Association, founded in 1933, is the National Governing Body of softball in the United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The ASA has become one of the nation's largest sports organizations and now sanctions competition in every state through a network of 76 local associations. The ASA has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 165,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than 2.5 million. For more information on the ASA, visit <http://www.asasoftball.com/>.

About USA Softball: USA Softball is the brand created, operated and owned by the ASA that links the USA Men's, Women's, Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' National Team programs together. USA Softball is responsible for training, equipping and promoting these four National Teams to compete in international and domestic competitions. The USA Softball Women's National Team is one of the only two women's sports involved in the Olympic movement to capture three consecutive gold medals at the **Olympic Games** since 1996. The U.S. women have also won nine World Championship titles including the last seven consecutive as well as claimed six **World Cup of Softball** titles. For more information about USA Softball, please visit <http://www.usasoftball.com>.