



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Salem to Host 2017 ASA/USA Girls 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch Championships**

**City Receives Award of Excellence for Hosting ASA National Tournaments**

Salem, Ore. — The American Softball Association (ASA) of America and USA Softball recently announced that Salem will be the site for the 2017 Girls 18-Under Class A Fast Pitch National Championship tournament. The tournament will be held July 30 – August 6 at Wallace Marine Park.

Approximately 100 teams from around the nation will travel to Salem for the 2017 tournament. Debbie McCune, director of sales for Travel Salem, estimates that the cash infusion from the players – not including family members – will be more than \$1,092,000 over the seven-day period.

“We’re thrilled to host the 2017 Class A Fast Pitch National Tournament in Salem,” said Billy Powers, Recreation Softball Coordinator for the City of Salem. “We look forward to watching the high caliber of play during the tournament and to welcoming participants and their families to our area.”

At its 84<sup>th</sup> national council meeting and awards luncheon, which took place November 4 in Louisville, Kentucky, ASA/USA Softball also presented Salem with the James Farrell Award of Excellence for hosting two of the highest ranked softball tournaments in 2015.

To earn a James Farrell Award of Excellence, which is named in honor of former St. Louis ASA/USA commissioner and national office staff member James Farrell, the host city must receive an overall rating of 95 percent from the ASA/USA representative, the umpire-in-chief and the national office.

This is the ninth time that Salem has received the James Farrell Award. “We’re honored to receive this award, and we’re proud of our partnership with Travel Salem, which helps us attract outstanding softball tournaments to Salem year after year,” added Powers.

Salem is often referred to as the “Softball Capital of the Northwest.” Wallace Marine Park in West Salem is home to the first “star” softball complex designed in the nation, which features five playing fields and state-of-the-art amenities. The complex sits at the edge of the Willamette River and is a short walk across the pedestrian bridge to Salem’s Riverfront Park and vibrant downtown.

The city of Salem has a long history with ASA/USA Softball and has hosted more than 20 National Championships. In 2016, Salem will host the ASA/USA Men’s C West Fast Pitch Tournament on July 15-17 and the ASA Men’s E Slow Pitch National Tournament on August 26-28 at Wallace Marine Park.

For more information about the City of Salem's softball program, go to [www.softballcityusa.com](http://www.softballcityusa.com). For more information about The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), visit [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com).

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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 \$548 million. Travel Salem manages the Official Salem Area Travel Café/Visitors Center located at 181 High St. NE, in downtown 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)\*\*\**