

Kansas City Jazzed To Host Nationals and Race Weekend

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (Dec. 6, 2005) – Fire up the barbecues; USA Triathlon will be in Kansas City, Mo., on July 8 for its 2006 National Age Group Championship, which will be part of the Kansas City Race Weekend.

The 2006 USAT National Age Group Championship – the pinnacle of the 2006 USAT Grand Prix Series and the high point of many athletes' seasons – will be held at Missouri's Smithville Lake. The race will serve as the sole qualifier for the 2006 International Triathlon Union (ITU) Age Group Triathlon World Championship on Sept. 2-3 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The race will be intermediate distance – 1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run – and there will be 16 slots on Team USA available per age group, rolling down to the 25th finisher if people in the top 16 do not accept their slots.

"The USA Triathlon National Age Group Championship will be the high point of the race season for USAT," said USAT National Events Director Jeff Dyrek. "We will be putting our time and resources into making this one of the best race experiences of the 2006 season."

The Kansas City Race Weekend will also include the Shawnee Mission Triathlon in Shawnee Mission, Kan., on July 9. Competitors in the National Championship can pair with a family member or friend who wants to do the Shawnee Mission short distance triathlon. The team of two athletes (one competing at Nationals and one at Shawnee Mission) with the best combined finish will receive two free round-trip airline tickets to fly anywhere within the continental United States.

The Age Group National Championship will be owned by USA Triathlon, produced by Mark Livesay of Ultramax Events and supported by the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation.

Race registration and travel details will be posted soon at www.usatriathlon.org. Please check the web site for updated information.

Smithville Lake is surrounded by rolling hills and grasslands. The race site is located about 10 miles from the Kansas City International Airport (MCI) and 17 miles from downtown Kansas City.

"Smithville Lake is a great venue and it deserves to be raced by the country's top age group triathletes," said USAT Executive Director Skip Gilbert. "USA Triathlon will focus on making this event the best possible championship and we look forward to bringing this exciting race weekend to the area."

USA Triathlon is the national governing body for triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and winter triathlon in the United States. USAT sanctions 1,800 races and connects with more than 60,000 members each year, making it the largest multi-sport organization in the world. For more information on this and other stories related to USA Triathlon, please contact communications and media relations manager B.J. Hoepfner Evans at 719-597-9090, ext. 105 or at BJ@USATriathlon.org. Please visit USA Triathlon's web site at www.usatriathlon.org.