



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Nantahala Outdoor Center's Spring 2020 Events

### [ICF Wildwater World Championships](#)

Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Nantahala Racing Club and Nantahala Outdoor Center are proud to host the [2020 ICF Wildwater World Championships](#), bringing over 150 athletes from 30 countries around the world to the Southeastern US to compete on the Nantahala River.

No registration is required for spectators – this is a completely free event for viewers who want to see world-renowned athletes compete in the biggest Wildwater competition of 2020. General public is encouraged to attend races hosted at NOC and the Opening Ceremonies on April 26<sup>th</sup> held in Bryson City, NC.

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### [US Open](#)

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 10:00am – 4:00pm

For 2020 only -- join NOC and the Nantahala Racing Club for a modified US Open event as the US's competitive paddlers travel and train for the 2020 Olympics. This year's event will feature recreational and youth friendly competitions on the lower slalom course, perfect for beginner paddlers or seasoned pros who just want to have some fun on the water. Spectators are encouraged to view the event from the bridges on NOC's Main Campus or enjoy the competition from River's End Restaurant and Big Wesser Riverside.

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### [Live Like Maria Freestyle](#)

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 9:30am – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 3:00pm

Join Nantahala Racing Club for a fun weekend of Competition in the discipline of Freestyle. Designed for people of all ages and abilities, the Live Like Maria Freestyle Championships will offer advanced as well as beginner categories. Both days will consist of competitions with amazing competition, great prizes, and fun for all – all to benefit the Maria Noakes Foundation.

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## [NOC's Spring Fling](#)

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 8:00am – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 7:00pm

Celebrate spring in the Smoky Mountains with a free, family-friendly event in the Nantahala Gorge! Enjoy a release of the Cascades and Upper Nantahala, live music, delicious food and the 3rd Annual Live Like Maria Freestyle Shootout on this weekend of celebration.

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## [Smoky Mountain Relay](#)

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 6:00am – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 5:00pm

A scenic, wild, team adventure in the mountains of Western North Carolina - Choose from the original 200-mile course or the shorter 135-mile course with teams of either 8 or 12 people.

Teams finish at the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#) in Bryson City, NC for a well-deserved after party, sponsored by Sierra Nevada's Sufferfest Beer and Catawba Brewing.

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## [Merrell Adventure Dash](#)

May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:00pm

The Merrell Adventure Dash is all about getting outside and challenging yourself to work hard for your good time. Suitable for families as well as adults, participants will negotiate a series of natural and man-made obstacles along the 5K course, including balance components, climbs and nets and more. This holiday weekend, enjoy a fun, family-friendly adventure run ending at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Merrell Adventure Dash participants can choose between the 5K dash or a 1K fun run. Kids aged 12 and under race free with a participating adult.

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## [Woman's Paddlefest](#)

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 7:00pm – June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Join Nantahala Outdoor Center for the third annual three-day Woman's Paddlefest, put on by inspirational paddler [Anna Levesque](#)! This festival is all about creating community by connecting, sharing, and supporting each other on and off the river. Trips will be offered on the Tuckaseegee River (class I-II), the Nantahala River (class II-III), and the Ocoee River (class II-IV) representing a range of skill levels, and is open to all women in all water craft. Participants enjoy paddling, yoga, live music and raffles for river related gear.

Donations and registration fees benefit the [Shannon Christy Memorial Fund](#), an organization that supports non-profits focused on women's empowerment.

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## [Swim Fontana](#)

June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00am – 9:30pm

Beautiful Fontana Lake offers an amazing venue for a 5K, 10K and 15K open water race – swim out to one of the lake’s fingers, around a point, across an open stretch of water to an island and back! This Swim Without Limits and U.S. Master’s Swimming race will hold social and awards ceremonies at Nantahala Outdoor Center's main campus in Wesser, NC. Food, beer, awards, and a live band will entertain competitors and spectators from 5:30-9:30pm.

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**About Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC)** -- Nantahala Outdoor Center is the nation’s largest outdoor recreation company. Over a million guests visit NOC annually to embark on a diverse collection of more than 120 different river and land-based itineraries, learn to kayak at NOC’s world-renowned Paddling School, travel abroad with NOC’s Adventure Travel program, test the latest outdoor gear and shop at its LEED-certified flagship retail stores or enjoy NOC’s resort amenities such as its three restaurants and multi-tiered lodging. A privately-held company, NOC is one of the largest employers in Western North Carolina and 22 Olympians including two Olympic Gold Medalists have called NOC home. NOC has been recently recognized by The New York Times as the “Nation’s Premiere Paddling School,” “The Best Place to Learn” by Outside, and as “One of the Best Outfitters on Earth” by National Geographic Adventure.