



News Release

June 27, 2017

Contact:

Katie Quinn, Communications Manager

City of Rock Hill, SC

katie.quinn@cityofrockhill.com

Office: 803-326-3791 | Mobile: 803-448-9745

2017 UCI BMX World Championships Back in USA after 16 Years

After 16 years, the UCI BMX World Championships will be back in the United States in Rock Hill, SC. The event, projected to be the largest international sporting event in South Carolina history, will be held at the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track in Rock Hill's Riverwalk community July 25-29, 2017. Second only in prominence to the Olympic games, the World Championships feature fierce competition among world-class amateur and elite athletes. More than 40 countries will be represented by approximately 3,300 riders, with an estimated 20,000 spectators. Participants are expected to stay approximately 10 days, generating a projected direct economic impact of \$13 million.

The event kicks off with Opening Ceremonies and a community celebration on Saturday, July 22, 6-10 p.m. in Fountain Park, 300 E. Main Street, Rock Hill. It will include a presentation of flags from participating countries, international food trucks, live music by "Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band," a kids zone with rides, autographs by elite BMX riders and other attractions.

The final day of racing on July 29 will feature the elite riders vying for the title of World Champion. Many Olympians are expected to compete, including BMX Men's 2016 Gold Medalist Connor Fields and BMX Women's 2016 Silver Medalist Alise Post, both from the US. Event officials will offer free admission on July 29 to York County, SC residents, students and their guests in gratitude of their hospitality. Fireworks will follow the awards ceremony that night to conclude the event.

A Local Organizing Committee (LOC), under the direction of the City of Rock Hill and Parks, Recreation & Tourism department staff, is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks during the event. Approximately 1000 volunteer shifts are available, with duties ranging from shuttle host, greeter, volunteer check-in, grandstand monitor and medical team assistance. Register at rockhillSCbmx.com, click "Volunteer," "Register" and "Select" in the "Volunteer" box to view available tasks and shifts. Volunteers will receive a free event pass, t-shirt and hat, along with an invitation to a volunteer kickoff drop-in on July 18, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Magnolia Room at Laurel Creek, 4017 Laurel Creek Drive, Rock Hill.

Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world governing body for the sport of cycling, announced in June 2014, two months before the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track opened, that Rock Hill won the bid to host the 2017 event. Past World Championships were held in Medellin, Colombia (2016), Heusden-Zolder, Belgium (2015), Rotterdam, Netherlands (2014) and Auckland, New Zealand (2013). The event started in 1982, and was last held in the US in 2001 in Louisville, Kentucky.

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For more information about the 2017 UCI BMX World Championships, visit www.rockhillSCbmx.com. Also, follow and like these social media accounts for information about the 2017 BMX Worlds:

<https://twitter.com/2017BMXWorlds>

<https://www.facebook.com/2017BMXWorlds/>

<https://www.instagram.com/2017bmxworlds/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDusxWf1HpDWNrs2hZ7afng>

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Media Accreditation for 2017 UCI BMX World Championships

UCI manages media accreditation for the competition. Media interested in covering the races can register at <http://uci.wingsmedia.it/>. Additional media information is available at <http://rockhillscbmx.com/media/>.

About the 2017 UCI BMX World Championships

The UCI BMX World Championships were last held in the USA in Louisville, KY in 2001, with the two previous World Championships in Zolder, Belgium and Medellin, Colombia. More than 40 countries will be represented by approximately 3,300 riders, with an estimated 20,000 spectators. Event attendees will have the opportunity to witness fierce competition among world-class amateur and elite athletes, including many Olympians, at what is projected to be the largest international sporting event in South Carolina history. For information about the 2017 UCI BMX World Championships, visit www.rockhillSCbmx.com.

About the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track

Modeled after the 2008 Beijing Olympic track, the Novant Health BMX Supercross Track is designed for speed with a 35-foot initial elite jump, asphalt turns for acceleration, and a breathtaking berm jump directly over the amateur track. Its unique surface delivers smooth, dust-free racing in all weather conditions, day and night. Located in the Riverwalk community of Rock Hill, SC, the track offers open practices, rider development and races throughout the year. The track is owned, operated and maintained by the City of Rock Hill Parks, Recreation & Tourism department. For a full schedule check www.novanthealthbmx.com.

About Rock Hill, South Carolina

Founded in 1852, Rock Hill, South Carolina is the largest city in York County and home to nearly 70,000 residents. Located about 20 miles south of Charlotte, NC, Rock Hill has progressed from its humble beginnings as a former textile community into a manufacturing, distribution and knowledge economy. The City of Rock Hill is known for strong planning principles and proactive infrastructure improvements. Providing quality services is at the heart of the City's 24/7/365 operations, leading to the tag line "Always on." In addition to public safety and sanitation services, the City provides reliable, safe and efficient electric, sewer and stormwater services in Rock Hill. The City is also the water supplier for the York County region. Rock Hill has established itself as a sports tourism destination, hosting the 2012 US Youth Soccer National Championships, 2017 UCI BMX World Championships, and many other local, national and international events. For more information, visit www.cityofrockhill.com.