



## **Nantahala Outdoor Center Introduces a Hot Summer Events Line-Up** *Gather at the river for fun festivals, international whitewater competitions & more.*

**Wesser, N.C. (June 10, 2015)**—Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) welcomes summer with a full selection of events for families, vacationers and whitewater paddlers. There's something for guests of all ages and skill levels to enjoy during the months of June, July, August and September along the banks of the river. Multi-day adventures are available for visitors interested in rafting or zip lining by day and then relaxing overnight in one of NOC's newly renovated cabins, bunkhouses or a resort lodge with convenient access to campus activities.

### [NOC's Nantahala Games: June 27-28](#)

Local paddling clubs compete against each other at this whitewater event open to all ages on the Nantahala River. Sponsored by Dagger Kayaks and Adventure Technology Paddles, competitions will be held for freestyle, downriver and slalom racers, with family-friendly games and activities on site as well. Live music Saturday night at 6:00 p.m. by Pioneer Chicken Stand band. A spectator favorite!

### [NOC's Sizzlin' 4th of July: July 3-5](#)

This 4th of July weekend, celebrate with family-friendly outdoor events at Nantahala Outdoor Center. Beyond whitewater rafting and zip lining, event highlights include major sales at NOC's Outfitter's Store with up to 30% off select apparel and gear from Keen, Merrell, Chaco, The North Face and more. Free live music takes place Friday and Saturday nights along the Nantahala River at Big Wesser BBQ & Brew. The band Grits & Soul plays Friday. Saturday Dr. Paul Constantine plays at 1:00 p.m. followed by Playing on the Planet at 6:00 p.m.

### [Whitewater Junior Olympics: July 24-26](#)

Nantahala Racing Club, the non-profit partner of Nantahala Outdoor Center, hosts paddlers ages 18 and under for the 2015 Whitewater Junior Olympics at the Nantahala River. This national-level youth event is an all-inclusive experience that features slalom, downriver and freestyle competitions. Family-friendly and fun for beginner through advanced paddlers, it's a great opportunity for kids to meet young paddlers and families from around the country and get inspired about whitewater. Some of these promising young competitors may one day grace the Olympic podium. The event also includes a fun Ducky Cross through the 2013 Wave, a Stand-up Paddle Board free play, a Giant Slalom kayak race, and off-the-water community events such as a run and other social activities to encourage camaraderie among participants, families and the broader community. One star athlete who competed at last year's Junior Olympics Miller Kaderabek shares his thoughts on training and even what it's like to make his own boat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qiSI1yBQj4>

### [ICF Junior & U23 Whitewater Canoeing World Championships: August 2-7](#)

The International Canoe Federation's Wildwater Canoeing World Championships provides juniors and young adults under 23 years of age with the opportunity to compete internationally in the wildwater discipline. Wildwater racing consists of individuals and teams racing from one point on the river to another point. This premier wildwater event is slated to draw over 200 wildwater canoers and thousands of spectators from around the world to the Nantahala Gorge. The event furthers the legacy for the region as the premier, world-class outdoor recreation destination in the southeastern United States. For event and travel related questions please contact [info@nantahala2015.com](mailto:info@nantahala2015.com).

### [Paddle Grapple: September 6](#)

Participants in this favorite Nantahala Outdoor Center event choose from stand-up paddleboard, surfski, marathon, kayak or canoe classes in this race on beautiful Fontana Lake in the Great Smoky Mountains. With 3 and 6 mile race options available, the Paddle Grapple has something for every boater, whether recreational or elite. Awards will be given to top finishers in each class. Dagger Kayaks has donated a Dagger Katana 10.4 to be raffled off during the event. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase during registration, and all proceeds will be donated to the Nantahala Racing Club (Nantahala Outdoor Center's non-profit partner that provides training to whitewater youth in the area).

### [Guest Appreciation Festival \(GAF\) & Bike Trials: September 25-27](#)

Nantahala Outdoor Center's Guest Appreciation Festival is the company's way of saying thank you to the thousands of guests who visit each year. The weekend includes outdoor gear and apparel at stunningly low prices at a new and used gear sale featuring top brands including The North Face, Chaco, Dagger Kayaks, KEEN and more. Boaters will take advantage of free shuttles for the Cascades and Upper Nantahala recreational releases. Many craft vendors are on campus selling their handmade wares, and family-friendly activities include corn hole, giant Jenga, face painting, a bounce house and more! After rafting and zip lining guests can dance to live music on the banks of the Nantahala River. It's a full weekend of incredible sales, whitewater fun, outdoor adventure and gratitude!

For the complete event schedule, more information on each listing and a great selection of event photos visit [noc.com/events](http://noc.com/events).

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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.*