

Contact: Kelly McCandless
Billings Chamber/CVB
Phone: (406) 869-3732
(406) 861-2981
kelly@BillingsChamber.com
www.BillingsChamber.com

P.O. Box 31177
815 S. 27th St.
Billings, MT 59107
Fax: (406) 245-7333
www.VisitBillings.com
www.BrandBillings.com



Media Release

AAU Grand Nationals Wrestling Championship Returns to Billings for 2013

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, June 11, 2013: Darkhorse Wrestling Club and Renegades Wrestling Club, along with the Billings Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) joined forces to bring the Amateur Athletic Union or AAU Grand Nationals Wrestling Championship back to Billings June 13 – 15, 2013. This AAU Tournament will be held in Alterowitz Gym at Montana State University Billings.

The AAU Grand Nationals attracts hundreds of athletes, their family members and fans from across the nation for competition. “Based off of previous events, we expect to see approximately 1,500 hotel rooms filled over the course of three days,” shared Billings CVB Executive Director, Alex Tyson. “Conservatively, that’s an impact on the Billings community of about \$337,500, making it an exceptional event for Billings.”

The AAU Grand Nationals has divisions for kids age six and under all the way up to Master Class with competitors aged 30 and up. The championship provides opportunities for wrestlers of all levels to receive awards and recognition for achievement in their sport. Kim Braaton, one of the event organizers, says, “This Championship is an invaluable opportunity for the competitors. It really is the most prestigious wrestling tournament of the year – and we are putting the “grand” back in GRAND Nationals! It’s going to be a great event.”

Team Montana performed notably, taking the super-team trophy five of the last seven years. In 2012, 33 out of 35 Montana wrestlers received All-American status and six were Triple Crown recipients. Participants and fans are invited to view the matches held at various times June 13 – 15. A full schedule is available [here](#). To register for the 2013 event, log on to www.trackwrestling.com. Competition, paired with vendors and concessions will make this event family friendly.

The 2014 AAU Grand Nationals will also be held in Billings.

###

The TBID was created in 2007 through the efforts of the Billings lodging community. The group is overseen by a board of directors consisting of seven variably sized hotel properties and is managed by the Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau. Marketing and promotional dollars are collected through a \$1 assessment per hotel room per night stayed in the Billings community. The funds are used to carry out the group's mission of generating room nights for lodging facilities in the city of Billings by effectively marketing our region as a preferred travel destination.

The MISSION of the Tourism Business Improvement District is to generate room nights for lodging facilities in the city of Billings by effectively marketing our region as a preferred travel destination.



The Tourism Business Improvement District is managed by the Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau.

