



USA Cycling European U23 and Junior X-C Mountain Bike Race Camps

In an effort to extend international development opportunities to a larger number of our best young US Mountain Bikers, USA Cycling will organize three Cross-Country Mountain Bike Development Camps in Kirchzarten, Germany for the spring/summer of 2009. These camps will be based in the Black Forest of Germany with each camp running for a three week period. Athletes attending the camps will race between one and two times per weekend. Riders who are eager to improve through international competition are encouraged to use these camps as a primary development tool.

Camp Schedules

The first 3 week camp will be reserved for U23 riders. Juniors will be welcome to petition for the 2nd and 3rd camps.

- **May 7th-25th will support U23 riders only**
- **May 28th-June 15th will support both U23 and Junior riders**
- **June 18th-July 6th will support both U23 and Junior riders**

**The exact race schedule for each trip will be finalized by March 2009.

Financial Responsibility

- Full Support-2008 Cross Country National Mountain Bike Champions in the U23 Men and Junior Men 17-18 age category
- Any rider who qualified for automatic nomination to the 2008 Mountain Bike World Championships will only be required to pay for their round-trip airfare to Europe. This only applies to riders who qualify for the same age category at the 2009 Development Camp as they raced in 2008.
- All other attending riders will be required to pay for their round-trip airfare as well as an \$850.00 camp fee.

Selection

- All interested riders should petition for a specific camp using the European MTB Race Camp petition form which can be found by following the below link:

<http://www.usacycling.org/forms/mtb/EuroU23JuniorMTB-RaceCamp-Petition.doc>

This form should be emailed directly to Marc Gullickson at mgullickson@usacycling.org on or before the petition deadline date.

- Riders will be selected based on past international and domestic race results as well as performance at the 2008 National MTB Talent ID Camp.
- One (1) non-funded spot will be held for the highest placing older U23 Men (racing age 21 or 22) at the Sea Otter Classic Cross-Country if that rider places in the top 10 of the Pro Elite Men's event.
- One (1) non-funded spot will be held for the highest placing younger U23 Men (racing age 19 or 20) at the Sea Otter Classic Cross-Country if that rider places in the top 20 of the Pro Elite Men's event.
- One (1) non-funded spot in the 2nd or 3rd three week camp will be held for the winner of the Sea Otter Classic Junior Men Cross-Country Cat. 1, 17-18 race scheduled for April 19th, 2009.
- All petitions should be emailed to Marc Gullickson at mgullickson@usacycling.org by the deadline date of April 1st, 2009.

Camp Goals

- Provide high level European race experience for our countries best young mountain bike racers.
- Offer an alternative to using the World Championships as a development tool. The World Championships should be viewed as a secondary goal after a rider has performed successfully at one of the Mountain Bike Development Camps. Of course any rider who meets the published World Championship automatic selection criteria will be selected for the World Championship Team.
- Give riders an opportunity to experience high level international competition in a supportive team atmosphere in advance of their participation in top tier events such as the World Championships.

Looking Ahead

- In 2010 our goal is to offer even more opportunity for U23 and Junior riders to race in Europe.
- Riders interested in attending 2010 European Mountain Bike Race Camps should strive to attain top results in the Mountain Bike National Championships as well as USAC Pro Tour events. A calendar of these events can be found on the USA Cycling website or by

following this link http://www.usacycling.org/forms/mbnc/MTBNatzCalendar_XC.pdf

These events will be used as the main selection events for the 2010 Camps as well as International results.

- In addition to attaining top race results in the above events, riders who wish to improve their chances of selection for the 2010 Camps should aspire to be selected for and attend the USAC National Mountain Bike Talent ID Camp. Riders who attend USAC Regional MTB Talent ID Camps and are among the top performers nation- wide will be invited to USAC's National MTB Talent ID Camp in the fall of 09'. A schedule of these camps can be found on the USA Cycling website or by following this link <http://www.usacycling.org/news/user/story.php?id=809>