This year the World Youth Championships are being held for the first time in North America. The top young climbers from around the world will meet on the coast of the Pacific Ocean to prove they have what it takes to be crowned champions.

The Boulders Climbing Gym in Central Saanich, BC, Canada, located on Vancouver Island, is bustling with activity as they make the final preparations to host this year’s IFSC World Youth Championships (WYCH). Teams from all over the world have already started to arrive for special pre-competition training sessions; and route setters are busy planning the perfect routes to complement and challenge the unique talents of these top level young athletes. Central Saanich was recently named the “Competition Climbing Capital of Canada,” and with a climbing facility like the Boulders Climbing Gym, it is easy to see why. Home to an 18-meter high competition climbing wall and over 1,200 square meters of climbing space, this world class climbing facility will make a fantastic backdrop to this year’s competition.

A high level of competition is expected at this exciting five-day event.

Over 400 athletes from approximately 35 countries are expected to compete in this year’s WYCH set to take place from August 15th to the 19th. The event begins at 8:00 pm on Thursday August 15th with Opening Ceremonies. On Friday and Saturday, August 16th and 17th, the qualifying rounds in the lead climbing category will begin at 9:30 am on both days and continue until complete. Sunday the 18th is the Speed Climbing day, with practice rounds beginning at 8:30 am and qualifying rounds at Noon. Finals will start at 4:30 pm. On Monday, semi-finals for lead begin at 9:30 am, with the finals beginning at 4:30 pm. The Awards and Closing Ceremonies begin at 7:30 pm.

For more information, please visit the Boulders Climbing Gym website: http://climbtheboulders.com/world-youth-championships/

Media Contact Mr. Christian J. Stewart

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PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

**Thursday August 15 - Boulders Climbing Gym**
20:00 - 21:00 - Opening Ceremonies

**Friday August 16 - Boulders Climbing Gym**
Qualifier 1 - Difficulty
09:30 - First climbers start in all categories

**Saturday August 17 - Boulders Climbing Gym**
Qualifier 2 - Difficulty
09:30 - First climbers start in all categories

**Sunday August 18 - Boulders Climbing Gym - Speed**
Qualifier Rounds
12:00 - Youth A
13:30 - Youth B
15:00 Junior
All Final Rounds
16:30 to 20:30 (as needed)

**Monday August 19 - Boulders Climbing Gym**
Semi-Finals
09:00 - Semi-Finals Start
Finals for Youth B Boys/Girls and Youth A Girls
16:30 - Finals Start
Finals for Youth A Boys and Junior Boys/Girls
18:30 - Finals Start
20:30 - Awards and Closing Ceremonies

*All times listed in Central Saanich Local Time (GMT-7)*
ABOUT THE BOULDERS CLIMBING GYM

The Boulders Climbing Gym is a not-for-profit society, with the mandate of making climbing accessible for everyone, regardless of ability or ability to pay. With over 13,000 square feet (1,208 square metres) of climbing space, The Boulders Climbing Gym is a community facility and a unique social enterprise, providing adaptive recreation and rehabilitation programs, youth recreational and competitive programs, as well as facilitating a climbing academy at Stelly’s Secondary School. All instructors are certified by the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides. See www.climbtheboulders.com for more details.

Home of the 2013 IFSC World Youth Climbing Championships, August 15-19, 2013

Web: http://climbtheboulders.com/world-youth-championships/

Twitter: @bouldersclimb

Hash Tag: #wych2013

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/bouldersclimb

ABOUT THE IFSC

The IFSC is an international non-governmental non-profit organization whose main objectives are the direction, regulation, promotion, development and furtherance of climbing competitions around the world. The IFSC fosters links, networks, and friendly relations among its members, their climbers and officials. The IFSC is a member of ARISF, SportAccord and IWGA, and is officially recognized by the IOC. Visit www.ifsc-climbing.org for more info.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To request archive photos and footage, please contact the IFSC Media Relations Team:

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VIDEOS

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ifscchannel

PHOTOS

For a selection of photos available shortly after each event, please visit the Photo Gallery on www.ifsc-climbing.org

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