



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES TO BE HELD IN PORTLAND

2nd time the Rose City plays host to international event

PORTLAND, OR (JUNE 27, 2017) – Today, the Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) announced that, for a second time, Portland will play host to the 41st annual Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), expected to attract 240 teams and their 3500 players and supporters competing in an exciting international softball competition.

“We are so excited to bring this huge event to Portland,” said Roy Melani, chairman of the Portland World Series board. “Portland has a lot to offer our athletes, we have some of the best public softball fields in the United States.” Indeed, with thousands of players and supporters seeking hotels, food and entertainment, “the impact of our event is hard to understate,” said Melani. In fact, as the tourism-centered organization “Travel Portland” points out, they’ve calculated “the estimated economic impact for GSWS2017 to be \$4,102,566.”

The organization bringing this event to Portland, NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance), celebrating their 40th year anniversary, is a 501c(3) international sports organization comprised of men and women dedicated to providing opportunity and access for the LGBT community in safe environments. Currently, more than 17,000 players from 46 cities across Canada and the United States participate in member leagues, and the best of these teams converge for competition at the annual Gay Softball World Series, held in a different member city each year.

What does it take to bring this exciting event to the Rose City? “Volunteers,” said coordinator, Matt Alex. “We’ll need to recruit volunteers to fill over 1,000 shifts throughout the week. It’s exciting, if daunting!” Alex refers those interested in helping out during the event to check out the series website, gsws2017.org. “There will be lots of amazing opportunities, the perfect chance to interact with Portland’s vibrant LGBT community.”

Competition takes place Labor Day week, September 3-7, where sports fans are invited to attend games free of charge. “We’re taking over four major softball facilities around Portland for our event. Fans will have plenty of opportunity to see some thrilling games, all totally free,” said Roy Melani. “And then there’s the fabulous parties and events taking place during the week. Just a ton going on, events for the whole family.”

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The Rose City Softball Association (RCSA) burst onto the gay social scene in 1995. Host city for the international Gay Softball World Series in 2002, Portland embraced 76 teams and 1500 participants. This year, the RCSA will show off their city by hosting GSWS a second time, anticipating 240 teams and their 3500 players and supporters from around the US and Canada Labor Day week, celebrating community and friendship in 2017 through “*Progress, Pride and Play!*”

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