

VISA INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Any person from Central or South America will need a Visa to enter the United States. The Kern Valley River Council will do everything we can to assist athletes to obtain their visas to attend the 2005 Slalom races being held in August. It is important to do this **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, as it can take several weeks to months to obtain a visa.

To speed up this process, we need the athlete along with their Federation to do the following: (Note that you will need a current passport to process the visa):

1. Contact the local United States Embassy or Consulate in your country.
2. Find out what is needed to obtain a Visa for entry for an athlete to attend an athletic event in the United States.
3. If possible, get the name, phone number and email address of a person in the Embassy / Consulate that we can talk and work with directly.
4. Find out what documents they will require from us. We will provide copies of the official invitation letters sent to your Federation and other documents for you to take to the Embassy/Consulate ahead of time, but they probably will want additional information. We need to know what that requirement is and where and how they want us to send it to them.
5. Most Embassys and Consulates require personal interviews with the Athletes. Try to schedule this interview right away, even if you do not have all the documents to help avoid delays.
6. Provide us with a list of the names of the Athletes who are obtaining the Visas, along with their home address and passport identification number. We will prepare the official invitations to include the names of those athletes, which will be required by the Embassy or Consulate.
7. You will need to provide to the Embassy an address of where you will be staying while here in the United States. Since we will be providing a "Home-Stay" at a private home in the Kern Valley to all athletes of this race, we will need the athletes to complete the "Housing Questionnaire" and return it to us so we can finalize these arrangements. We will then be able to give you the name and address of your home-stay location.
8. Give the following contact information to the Embassy or Consulate:

Event: 2005 Pan American Slalom Championships

Location: Kern River, Kernville, California, U.S.A.

Event Host: Kern Valley River Council

Contact Person: Terry Valle, Organizing Director
23112 Baltar Street
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Website Info: <http://www.kernslalom.com>