



W I N G S O F A M E R I C A

American Indian Youth Development Programs
December 4, 2012

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

For more information, including qualifying times for all applicants, please visit:

<http://www.wingsofamerica.org/2013-wings-team/>

OR contact Wings program director Dustin Martin @ (505) 977 5057 or dustin@wingsofamerica.org

Wings of America Announces the 2013 USATF Cross Country Championships National Team

The USATF Cross Country Championships will be held on February 2, 2013 in St. Louis, Missouri. Every year Wings of America (The Earth Circle Foundation, Inc.) sponsors a men and women's team of Junior runners (ages 14-19, cannot turn 20 during 2013) from across the United States to represent Native America at this elite-level race. The biennial qualifiers for Team USA, the Championships attract an impressive field of competitors hoping to qualify to represent the U.S. at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships.

Wings created this opportunity to showcase and encourage the talents and positive achievements of American Indian youth while providing selected student-athletes with a cross-cultural learning experience. The program brings Native youth of varying backgrounds together to compete as a team against some of the best high-school-aged and college freshman runners in the country. Many program alumni have earned the attention of college coaches and life-changing scholarships with their performance in these races. Wings runners have captured twenty-three national junior team titles since 1988.

Members of the 2013 Wings of America National Team were selected based on their performance at premier championship-season cross country meets (Nike Cross Regionals; "NXR" or Footlocker West). Overall times factoring course difficulty, course conditions and weather were considered by program director Dustin Martin and Wings-affiliated advisors in order to select the top seven individuals for both the men and women's teams. With a large influx of eligible applicants in comparison to years past, the selection pool was the most competitive it has been in over a decade. When all was said and done, 52 student-athletes posted qualifying times across four distinct regions. Though it is was extremely difficult to select just 14 runners from this impressive group of dedicated athletes, Wings of America is honored to announce the official members of the organization's 2013 USATF Cross Country Championships National Team: (PLEASE SEE Pg. 2)

The Earth Circle Foundation, INC.

901 W. San Mateo, Suite M, Santa Fe, NM 87505 TEL: (505) 982 6761 FAX: (505) 989 8995

Junior Women:

Name	High School/College	Qualifying Race (Date)	Time	Tribal Affiliation
Courtney B. Lewis	River Valley HS- Mohave Valley, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	18:48.35	Forth Mojave Indian Tribe
Garilena M. Cly	Fort Lewis College- Durango, CO	NXR SW (11/17)	19:22.07	Navajo
Jelani J. Huma	Saguaro HS- Scottsdale, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	19:42.06	Hopi
Jayde A. Secody	Page HS- Page, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	19:53.33	Navajo
Christen L. Ben	Hopi HS- Second Mesa, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	19:54.50	Navajo
Nicolette A. Coleman	Page HS- Page, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	19:54.57	Navajo
Claryn F. Jostewa	Hopi HS- Second Mesa, AZ	NXR SW (11/17)	19:58.91	Hopi

Junior Men:

Name	High School/College	Qualifying Race (Date)	Time	Tribal Affiliation
Preston K. Charlie	Rio Rancho HS- Rio Rancho, NM	NXR SW (11/17)	15:39.08	Pueblo of Laguna
Preston A. Panana	V. Sue Cleveland HS- Rio Rancho, NM	NXR SW (11/17)	15:51.18	Pueblo of Jemez
McKenz J. Leekya	Zuni HS- Zuni, NM	NXR SW (11/17)	15:53.94	Zuni Pueblo
Mackenzie L. Wahpepah-Harris	Norman HS- Norman, OK	NXR South (11/17)	16:02.64	Kickapoo
Kyle N. Broaddrick	Broken Arrow Senior High- Broken Arrow, OK	NXR South (11/17)	16:04.19	Cherokee
Brandon W. Levi	Piedra Vista HS- Farmington, NM	NXR SW (11/17)	16:04.31	Navajo
Jacob R. Riley	Laguna-Acoma HS- Casa Blanca, NM	NXR SW (11/17)	16:05.87	Pueblo of Laguna

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