



## Digs – Winter 2016

### **Pan American Deaf Volleyball Regional Qualifiers Coming to Washington, DC**

Hundreds of elite deaf volleyball players will come to Washington, DC July 1-16, 2016 for two international competitions. USA Deaf Volleyball, in conjunction with USA Volleyball, the Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association, and Gallaudet University, will host the Pan American Deaf Volleyball Regional Qualifiers for North, Central, and South American teams from July 1-4, 2016, followed by the World Deaf Volleyball Championships from July 5-16, 2016.

These two international events will take place on the Northeast Washington campus of [Gallaudet University](#), the world's only liberal arts university for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The competition venue will be the University's Field House, and athletes and staff will be housed in residence halls.

Both men's and women's teams will participate in these events, which are considered tune-ups for the Deaflympics, scheduled for July 2017 in Samsun, Turkey. Registration is currently underway; as of November 2015, Turkey, Iran, Kenya, Mali, Ukraine, and the United States have committed to the World Championships.

Patrick O'Brien of Bowie, MD is chair for both competitions, and also will serve as technical director for the Pan Am Volleyball Qualifiers. Catherine Schelvis from the Netherlands is technical director for the World Deaf Volleyball Championships. Schelvis conducted a site visit and inspection in September. O'Brien has assembled an organizing committee, which has met twice this fall. The events will have a robust social media presence, and key matches will be live-streamed.

O'Brien welcomes potential sponsors and volunteers. He can be contacted at [pobrien@usdeafsports.org](mailto:pobrien@usdeafsports.org) or 240-206-6134. [Visit the website today!](#)