



World Goldpanning Association

<http://www.w-g-a.org>

Application to host the World Goldpanning Championships

Please fill in the form completely, if information is not known then add an estimated time when the information will be available. Submit the form to the WGA secretary at secretary@worldgoldpanningassociation.org and the president at president@worldgoldpanningassociation.org **at least eight weeks before the date of the Annual General meeting.** (During the week of the World Goldpanning Championships). This form can also be used for years where there is a European Championships (*When the Worlds are held outside Europe.*

Bids are normally submitted three to five years in advance, the sum of 100 Euro is to be submitted with this form. This fee is non refundable. If your bid is successful then the hosting fee is 400 Euro which is payable after you receive notification of your winning bid.

<i>Nation</i>	<i>Finland</i>
<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland (Lapin Kullankaivajain Liitto ry, LKL)</i>
<i>Year that Championships is required (Check on web site that this year is available)</i>	<i>2019 (2nd-10th August)</i>
<i>Town and area where the competition will take place</i>	<i>Tankavaara, Lapland, Finland</i>
<i>Please state the reason why your organization wish to host the World Championships</i>	<i>World Championships will be the highlight of the important year of gold in Finland.</i>
<i>Is this bid related to any national event? (150th anniversary of gold discovery for example)</i>	<i>150th anniversary of gold mining history. 70th anniversary of Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland</i>
<i>Does this bid have financial backing? If so what is the expected budget?</i>	<i>Our closest municipalities have agreed to support the event. We also have several sponsors from local companies. Expected budget would be 150 000€.</i>
<i>Does this bid have the support of Government</i>	<i>Municipalities of Sodankylä and Inari support the bid. Member of parliament, mr. Mikko Kärnä supports the bid. See the official letters</i>



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<i>or local councils? (if possible include an official letter from local Government)</i>	<i>attached.</i>
<i>Describe the area where the championships will take place</i>	<i>Tankavaara has hosted the National Goldpanning Championships every year since 1974 and many World Goldpanning Championships since 1977. There are all the services and facilities needed for the event.</i>
<i>Has your nation or organisation hosted a World Championship before? If so when and where.</i>	<i>Tankavaara, Finland has hosted World Goldpanning Championships in 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1987, 1993 and 2006.</i>
<i>Chief of Organising Committee</i>	<i>Mr. Marko Touru</i>
<i>Email:</i>	<i>info@tankavaara.fi</i>
<i>Phone number:</i>	<i>Tel. +358 40 7441710</i>
<i>Mailing address:</i>	<i>Tankavaara Gold Village, Tankavaarantie 11 A 99695 Tankavaara, Finland www.tankavaara.fi</i>
<i>Will this person attend the next World Competition? If no will another contact person attend?</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Competition Manager: The person who will plan and run the competition.</i>	<i>Mr. Esko Orava</i>
<i>Email Address:</i>	<i>info@tankavaara.fi</i>
<i>Any further information you feel important to mention</i>	<i>Please see the attached documents:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tankavaara Gold 2019</i> - <i>Official Letter of Municipality of Sodankylä and Inari</i> - <i>Official Letter of the Member of the Parliament of Finland, Patron of the Event</i>

Once received and recorded, the application will be processed and information sent to the Executive Council. You will receive acknowledgement and be asked to send a representative to the next World Council meeting. There, your bid will be discussed along with any other nations



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applying. Bids that are approved by the council will then go to a vote and the successful one will be granted the right to host the championship that year.

Year 2019

2019 is an important year as Finland celebrates 150 years of Finnish gold prospecting. The first Finnish gold rush began in 1869 in Ivalojoiki River. The first accounts of gold found in the region were the year before in 1868, though it took almost a year for the gold rush to begin. Since then, alluvial gold mining has taken place in several areas of Finnish Lapland.

In 2019 the Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland (later LKL, Lapin Kullankaivajain Liitto) celebrates its 70th anniversary. The association was established in 1949 during the heydays of gold rush in Lemmenjoki and since then it has been active in developing the working conditions of the gold miners, co-operating with officials and government and securing and enhancing the rights for prospecting gold. Additionally the association preserved the old gold mining objects that were the start of the Gold Museum in Tankavaara. LKL also invented the gold panning competitions, reviving the skill of gold panning. Later the responsibility of organizing the competitions was transferred to Gold Museum but now the association has returned to its roots; arranging the National Goldpanning Championships . and hopefully the World Championships in 2019. Today there are over 4000 members in the association and it is well-known around the country from its activities.

Supporters and co-operators

The whole gold miners community in Finland has encouraged the LKL to bid for the World Championships of 2019 as it would be the highlight of one of the most important year in Finland's gold mining history. All associations and many companies co-operating with LKL fully support the bid and are ready to give their expertise in order to realize the best possible World Event.

Tankavaara is situated in the municipality of Sodankylä and the municipal council has given their support to the event. A Member of Finnish Parliament, Mr. Mikko Kärnä, has agreed to be the Patron of the event.

Experience and new ideas

The first Goldpanning Finnish Open Championships were arranged in 1974 and since then every year Tankavaara has been the venue of the National Championships and some World Championships. The first World event took place in 1977 in Tankavaara and from there the competitions spread around the world.

Many members of the Tankavaara Gold 2019 Organizing Committee have experience of arranging dozens of International, National and local goldpanning competitions and every time their knowledge has grown. The members of the committee know very well how to organize good Events. There are also some new members in the Committee with new ideas and new innovations. The Committee members are all ready to do their very best for 2019.

Tankavaara

Legend tells that the gold of Tankavaara was found by a local Sámi man in 1934 because of a dream he had. Since then alluvial gold has been mined in the area and the biggest nugget found in Tankavaara weighs 183 grams. Today the Tankavaara Gold Village panning site is also well-known to tens of thousands of tourists.

Tankavaara Gold Village has offered travelers restaurant services, accommodation, goldpanning and many different activities and events for four decades. The owners of the Gold Village will play an important role in the World Championships of 2019 and they are committed to creating the best possible venue and services to the event.

Gold Museum was established in Tankavaara in 1973 to preserve and exhibit the history and modern gold mining activities. In 1995 the international part called the Golden World was opened, showcasing the history of gold in over twenty countries.

Over the decades Tankavaara has been the goldpanning competition venue in Finland and the area has been developed to serve the Goldpanning Championships the best possible way. The area will also be renewed and developed further before 2019.

Genuine goldpanning possibilities for everyone

The third gold rush in Finnish Lapland is still ongoing and alluvial gold mining activity is quite popular with hundreds of people and some professional miners. Good amount of

alluvial gold can still be found in Lapland and for some people gold mining is even a part of their livelihood, which is unique in Europe.

LKL and individual miners will open several claims around the gold fields during the Championships for the attendees to use. They are allowed to work there with pans, sluice-boxes, water-pumps etc. Most of the claims there also have the equipment available.

General information

Tankavaara Gold Village, the gate to Lapland's gold fields, is located directly by the road E75, 30 km south of Saariselkä. Competitors can travel to Tankavaara by car or via air (nearest airport 60 km in Ivalo) and by train or bus.

There is a large camping site around the competition site in Tankavaara for caravans and tents. More showers and toilets will be brought to the area and electricity is available for those who need it. Also there are some hotel rooms and cabins available. Saariselkä Ski Resort (30 km north) has several kinds of accommodation and facilities available. Nearest grocery store is in Vuotso (10 km south).

During the Championships Tankavaara Gold Village is prepared to offer the competitors food, drinks and other services with reasonable prices at the same price level than most of the host countries have had.

Tankavaara will also arrange several other programs during the event, such as Sámi and Mineral Market, live music, dance, auction, fun events. Many excursions will be arranged during the Championships, for example a visit to Inari and Sámi Museum Siida, Lemmenjoki day and Ivalojoensuu River boat trip.

Tankavaara is also located right next to the Urho Kekkonen National Park with unique nature and several marked hiking roads that have their roots in the history of gold. Popular summer activities also include fishing, and canoeing, cruises, mountain biking, birdwatching etc.

Then of course we have the nightless night in Lapland, silence, sauna and reindeers . more than people.

Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/Tankavaaragold2019/

Important links

Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland: www.kullankaivajat.fi

Tankavaara Gold Village: www.tankavaara.fi/index.php/en/

Gold Museum: www.kultamuseo.fi/museo/pages/en/front-page.php

Visit Sodankylä Municipality: www.visitsodankyla.fi/en/travel/welcome.php

Visit Inari Municipality: www.inari.fi/en/main-page.html

Visit Saariselkä Resort: www.inarisaariselka.fi/en/

For the esteemed nomination panel of the World Gold Panning Championships 2019

I am Mikko Kärnä, a member of the Finnish parliament. I highly recommend Tankavaara Gold Village, which is located between the municipalities of Inari and Sodankyla, to host World Gold Panning Championships 2019. Tankavaara is a unique place in the lappish wilderness with a rugged and beautiful nature. I have visited Tankavaara many times and it has always been a success.

Finnish people are friendly and efficient in organizing big events. It would be wonderful, if our region could host the event. Tankavaara Gold Village was opened by the famous Finnish president Urho Kaleva Kekkonen in 1977 and it has been the key place for Finland gold panning competitions after that. In Finland we appreciate and respect gold panning, and our parliament just changed legislation to make it easier. It is an important part of our culture.

Welcome to Finland!

Mikko Kärnä

Member of the Parliament of Finland





2019 WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TANKAVAARA

Sodankylä is one of the biggest municipalities in Finland. The large area of Sodankylä has spectacular nature, untouched wilderness, fells, villages, great lakes and gold-rich lands. Mines, active alluvial gold prospectors, nature travelers as well as native entrepreneurs work alongside each other in good understanding. Sodankylä is lively, cozy and constantly developing municipality in Lapland.

Every summer hundreds of alluvial gold prospectors travel to the gold-rich lands of Sodankylä. In Tankavaara, thousands of travelers around the world also feel the excitement of gold fever while panning their first gold nuggets. Gold prospecting and gold panning have a long history in Sodankylä, as sources of livelihood and as tourism activities.

Northern part of the municipality has also seen growth through cooperation and new projects that aim to bring worldwide visibility to the area in Tankavaara and Vuotso as well as develop new events that benefit both the locals and travelers. Sodankylä municipality supports cooperation that brings the locals and travelers together and creates sustainable economic future for the area.

Sodankylä municipality welcomes gold panners from around the world to Tankavaara World Gold Panning championships of 2019 and will support the competition project with all available resources.

Sodankylä 26.5.2016

Best Regards

Viljo Pesonen
Mayor
Municipality of Sodankylä



Gold Panning has long traditions dating back to 19th century in Inari municipality and we are glad that these traditions are being upheld with great enthusiasm. The World Gold Panning Championships also have long traditions, originating from Tankavaara in Finnish Lapland. In Inari municipality, we want to give our full support to the Tankavaara Gold 2019 Gold panning championships to be held in the place of their origin again.

Our municipality is known for travelers around the world and today the tourism field is constantly growing. The biggest season in tourism in Lapland is winter, though because of our versatile nature and national parks, Inari municipality offers lots of different nature experiences year-round.

Gold panning world championships have grown to be internationally notable events and the competition completes our year's event calendar excellently. During the competitions visitors and competitors have a great opportunity to get to know the rich gold prospecting culture of the area. Simply enjoying the unique nature of Lapland and scenery is enough for many.

We warmly welcome the gold panners of the world to compete in Tankavaara and Inari municipality.

Jyrki Hyttinen

Mayor

Municipality of Inari