



ROWING GROWING

Rowing is Growing – 2016 Junior and Scholastic

Rowing continues to grow across the United States. People of all ages are joining this ultimate team sport, embracing a lifetime of activity and competition. Launching the “Rowing Is Growing” series is our youngest group of athletes, junior and scholastic rowers.

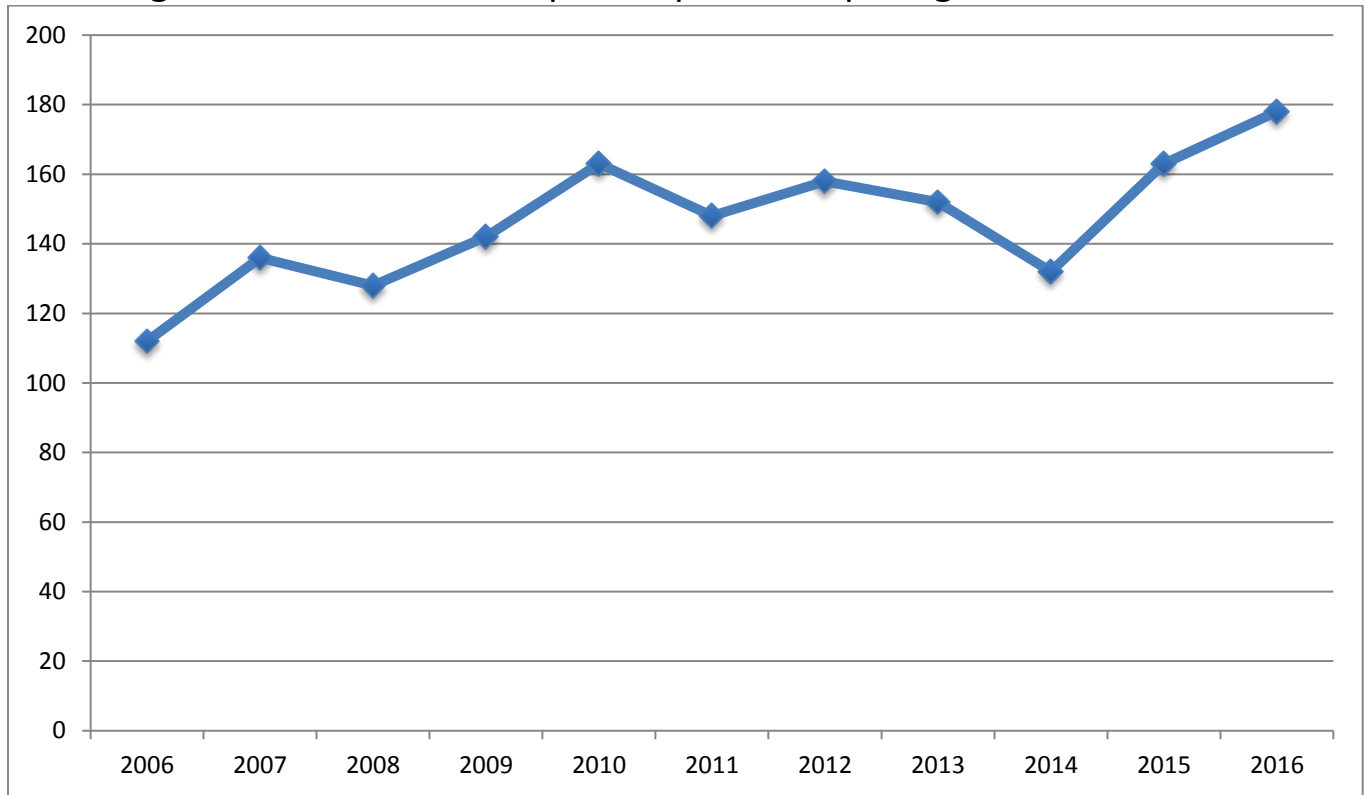
Scholastic (high school) crews as well as clubs offering junior rowing made up more than half of the 1,366 USRowing organizational members in 2016. Approximately 360 of our organizational members in 2016 were high schools, more than 120 clubs focused on only youth rowing, and well over 200 clubs offered rowing for both youth and masters.

In 2015, approximately 38,000 members of USRowing were 18 and under, which accounted for about 53% of the total membership. Approximately 9,500 of those juniors were Championship members as well. The number of junior athletes in 2016 has increased by over 2,000 athletes from 2015. USRowing had the strongest year in youth rowing in 2016: about 40,000 USRowing members were junior rowers (18 years old and under), an increase of over 5,000 more from 2014. Of the 40,000 junior members, over 12,000 juniors were Championship members in 2016. Total Championship membership grew by 22 percent in 2016, in part as a result of growth in the number and size of regional regattas for juniors.

Youth National Championships

The 2016 USRowing Youth National Championships were yet another example of the expansion of junior rowing. In 2016, Youth Nationals, held on Mercer Lake in Princeton, NJ, brought together a record number of competitors – 411 entries for 1,771 athletes from 178 different clubs; the largest Youth National Championships ever held by USRowing. Surpassing the 2015 Youth Nationals held in Sarasota Florida by 26 entries and 107 athletes.

USRowing Youth National Championships: Participating Clubs 2006-2016

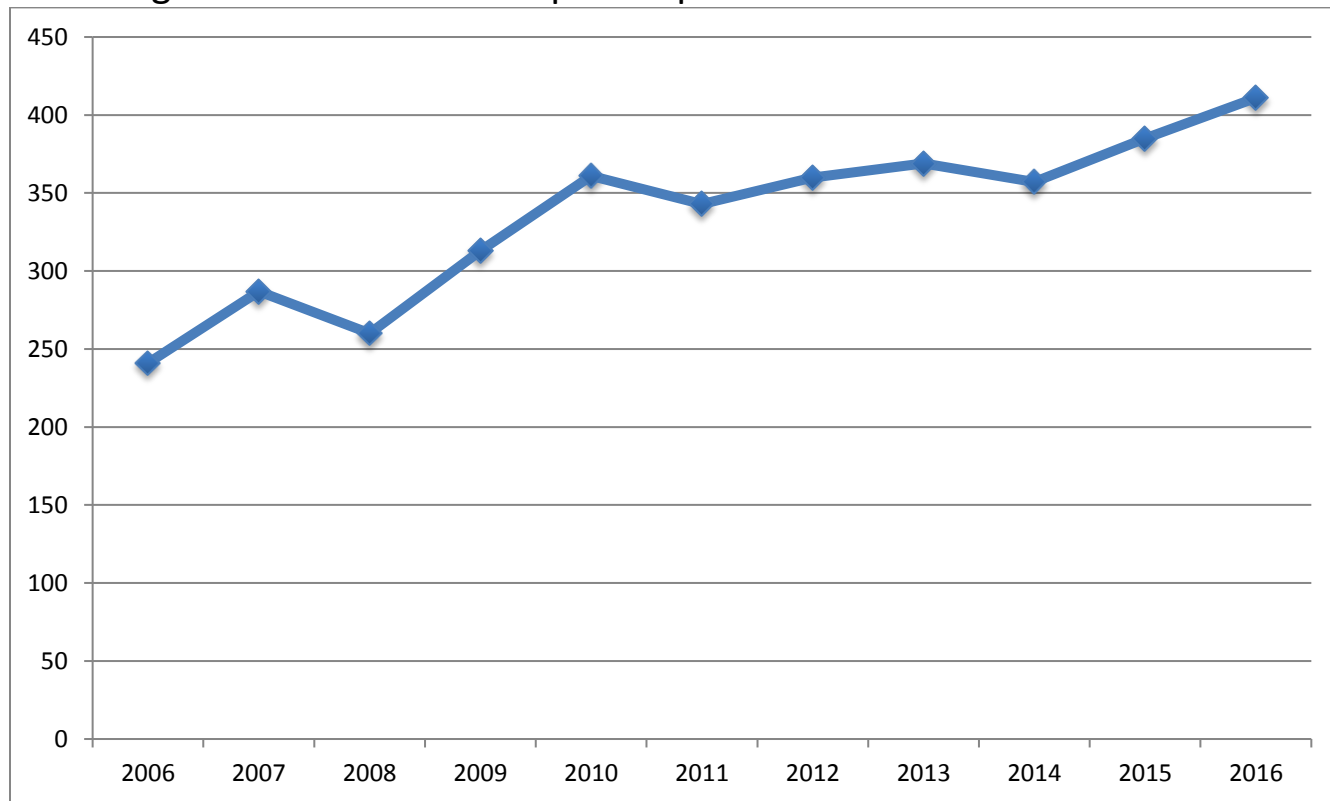


-from Regatta Central

In total, 178 clubs from 30 states competed in the 2016 event. California was the most-represented state with 20 entries, followed closely by New York with 19. With nine total entries, Saugatuck Rowing Club from Westport, Connecticut boasted the most entries in the regatta.

Wondering how quickly Youth Nationals has grown? Back in 2003, the number of competing clubs was 70, which nearly doubled to 136 by 2006 and in 2016 reached an all-time high of 178 clubs. When considering individual athletes, numbers grew from just over 700 to around 1600 athletes in its final year in Ohio (2010), with similar numbers in Oak Ridge, TN, (2011-2013), Rancho Cordova, California (2014), and Sarasota, Florida (2015) before landing a new event best with 1,771 competitors in Princeton earlier this year.

USRowing Youth National Championships: Entries 2006-2016



-from Regatta Central

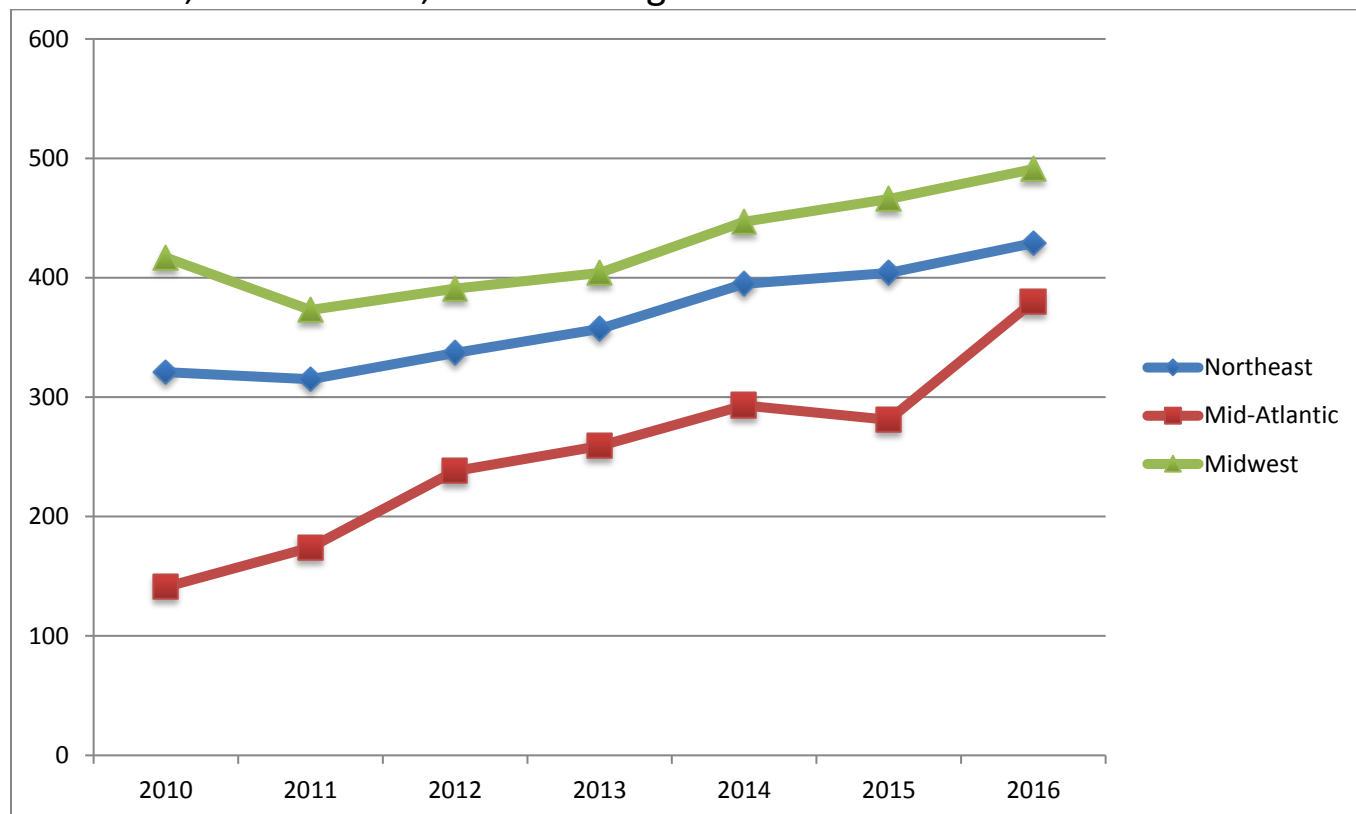
Regional events

The growth of the Youth National Championships can be attributed to several factors. It is important to note that the event is an invitational regatta and crews qualify at regional championships, thereby, limiting the amount of competing crews and athletes eligible to compete. Nevertheless, growth in athletes and clubs attending Youth Nationals is in part due to an increase in rowing's popularity, but also a result of an increase in races and entries allowed at the event and its qualifiers.

Youth Nationals direct qualification regattas hosted by USRowing include USRowing Central, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Youth Championships. There are also regions in which there is more than one qualification regatta. For example, the Mid-Atlantic district allows teams to qualify via the USRowing Mid-Atlantic Youth Championships as well as Philadelphia City Championship and Virginia State Championship. Scholastic rowers as well as club rowers have similar opportunities in order to qualify for Youth Nationals.

The Northeast (28%), Mid-Atlantic (23%), and Midwest (12%) are the top three largest regions of Junior/Scholastic rowers. In 2016, all three regional championships featured an all-time high in entries. Mid-Atlantic had the most growth, boasting a jump of 99 entries from the 2015 to the 2016 Championship.

Youth Regional Championships Entries 2010-2016 Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest Regionals



Information from Regatta Central

As far as growth in participants, all three regional championships have attracted more athletes to compete as well over the past 5 years. 2016 was the biggest year yet for all three of these regional championships. From 2011 to 2016, Mid-Atlantics boasted the largest increase in participants, from just 858 athletes in 2011 to 1,807 athletes in 2016, a staggering 111% increase. From 2015-2016 alone, Mid-Atlantics increased by 100 entries.

Northeast Regionals increased by over 500 athletes in the five year span, a 33% increase, and Midwest Regionals increased participation by 24%. In comparison, the number of clubs participating in Regional Championships has increased as well. Mid-Atlantics has grown by 20 clubs participating, accounting for a large amount of the 111% increase in athletes. In the past five years, Northeast and Midwest Regionals have increased in club participation by ten and nine programs respectively as well.

Future

The future continues to be bright for scholastic and junior rowing. Increases in entries, athletes, and clubs participating are indicative of the growth of rowing at the junior level. More high school programs and clubs have been popping up year after year accounting for growth in regional and national events. We see this trend influencing the collegiate rowing scene as well. An increase in high school athletes corresponds to an increase in the recruiting pool for collegiate programs. The rowing community continues to expand as juniors, the largest contingent of USRowing members, lead the way.