National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events

FACT SHEET

The NVSPSE office provides opportunities for Veterans to improve their independence, well-being, and quality of life through adaptive sports and therapeutic arts programs in accordance with 38 United States Code 322, 521, 521A. As leaders in adaptive sports and therapeutic arts programs that complement VA's rehabilitation system of care, the program encourages Veterans and members of the Armed Forces with disabilities to stretch beyond perceived limitations.

In service of this mission, the NVSPSE directs six national rehabilitation events delivering direct patient care to Veterans eligible for VA health care. These programs embrace formalized adaptive sports medicine as a practice specialty and provide the largest coordinated therapeutic arts program for Veterans.

Built on VA clinical expertise and operations, with essential support from Veteran Service Organizations, corporate sponsors, individual donors, and community partners, the programs allow VA to extend its level of care beyond the clinical setting. The rehabilitation events, held in cities across the nation, serve thousands of Veterans and train hundreds of VA rehabilitation providers across more than 125 VA medical centers annually.

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games, co-presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, serves Veterans with spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, amputations, stroke, and other neurological disorders. Since 1981, National Veterans Wheelchair Games have been inspiring Veterans to live healthier and more active lives through adaptive sports. It is the largest wheelchair sports rehabilitation event for Veterans with disabilities in the United States.
www.wheelchairgames.org

NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Founded in 1985, the National Veterans Golden Age Games serves Veterans ages 55 years and older. Through its "Fitness for Life" motto, the Golden Age Games offers sports competitions and health education sessions to demonstrate the value that sports, wellness, and fitness provide to assist senior Veterans live an active and healthy lifestyle. National Veterans Golden Age Games is a qualifying event for the National Senior Games. **www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov**

NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic has helped many of our nation's most profoundly disabled Veterans overcome obstacles and challenge their perceived limitations. The event is presented by VA and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and provides rehabilitation through adaptive winter sports, headlined with Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, and snowboarding. Since 1987, the Winter Sports Clinic has served Veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations, visual impairments, and certain neurological conditions. The Winter Sports Clinic is hosted by the VA Western Colorado Health Care System. **www.wintersportsclinic.org**

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION & FESTIVAL

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition & Festival recognizes the role creative arts therapy plays in the rehabilitation of Veterans. Veterans who showcase their achievements in the festival are selected gold medal winners of national art, music, dance, drama, and writing competitions in which thousands of Veterans enter from VA facilities across the nation. The festival is presented by VA and the American Legion Auxiliary and culminates with a stage performance, writing exhibition, and gallery-style showcase of artwork.
www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov

NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS T.E.E. (TRAINING, EXPOSURE, EXPERIENCE) TOURNAMENT

The National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament serves Veterans with visual impairments, amputations, traumatic brain injuries, psychological trauma, certain neurological conditions, spinal cord injuries, and other life changing disabilities. Presented by VA and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), the TEE Tournament provides adaptive golf instruction and a range of adaptive sports opportunities. The rehabilitation event is held in the Iowa City, Iowa area and hosted by the Iowa City VA Health Care System.
www.veteranstee.org

NATIONAL VETERANS SUMMER SPORTS CLINIC

Founded in 2008, the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic serves newly injured Veterans with complex disabilities, such as traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, visual impairments, neurological conditions, spinal cord injury, or loss of limb. The Summer Sports Clinic promotes the value of rehabilitation through adaptive summer sports, including surfing, sailing, kayaking, cycling, and new emerging sports. It is hosted by the VA San Diego Healthcare System.
www.summersportsclinic.va.gov

MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

VA provides a monthly stipend to Veterans with disabilities who are actively training in a Paralympic or Olympic sport. Eligibility includes meeting the standard established by the sport governing body or being selected as a member of the National Team in a qualifying sport.

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ADAPTIVE SPORTS GRANT PROGRAM

VA awards grants to qualifying organizations to plan, develop, manage, and implement programs to provide adaptive sports, provider training, and other opportunities for Veterans and members of the Armed Forces. With the use of these grants, VA is helping community organizations promote community reintegration through sports. Eligible activities range from traditional and Paralympic sports to non-traditional outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and adventure sports.

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