

Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project Scrapbook 2008

Veterans Share Good Times on Road Back from Injuries

DS/USA Chapters have a big impact on veterans as they rediscover their life's potential through sports and recreation. More than 30 chapters participated in 2008.

These anecdotes and pictures describe some moments captured by Chapters that represent their involvement in the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project. Thanks to all Chapters who are running programs to help our injured military and DS/USA looks forward to working with as many outstanding organizations through WWDSP again in 2009.



Billabong Surf Camp

September 2008
Camp Lejeune, N.C.



A surf camp was held at Onslow Beach on base at Camp Lejeune. Volunteers from the surf community, Ft. Bragg, the Naval Air Station, and Camp Lejeune assisted.

"You did a fantastic job! Your professionalism and quality instructors are a joy to work with. Thank you for everything!"
– Dr. Ginger Gold, Program Manager, Marine Corps Community Services, Wounded Warrior Battalion - Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

Operation High Altitude
Mammoth Lake, Calif.
June 2008

Operation High Altitude is an outdoor camping adventure that included rock climbing, fishing, kayaking, and cycling. Wounded Warrior events always culminate in a big celebration where volunteers, donors, and town guests are invited to send off the Wounded Warriors in style. The hootenanny in the Sierra Mountains included a catered barbeque and live music from Fiddlin' Pete.

The Wounded Warriors ham it up with Pete after the show!



Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center

Soldier Spring Ski Week
April 2008

Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) hosted Wounded Warriors and their families for three to five days of skiing and/or snowboarding.

Former Army Sgt. Dan Shannon, his wife, Torrey, and their three sons attended the Soldier Spring Ski Week 2008.

"... all of us have been really impressed with how we've been welcomed. And that's what's important for the country: the actions we do to take care of each other." – Torrey Shannon

Airman 1st Class Kevin Krogh attended the Ski/Ride Camp at SnoFest.

"We're all here for each other. There are a lot of people who have the same injuries as me, so we can support each other. We keep our hopes up. We tell each other never to give up... there's a lot of support out there, but it's most important to not give up on yourself." – Kevin Krogh

DS/USA Far West

Their Spirit Inspires
June 2008

Disabled Sports USA Far West hosted its 3rd Annual "Their Spirit Inspires" event, a summer adaptive sports camp for 14 military veterans with disabilities, many of whom were injured in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans learned how to waterski, golf, whitewater raft, play wheelchair softball, and ride adaptive cycles. The event culminated with an inspirational dinner honoring the soldiers at the Hyatt Regency, Sacramento. Whitewater rafting on the Class III+ Chile Bar section of the South Fork of the American River was the highlight of the trip for many.



Wounded Warriors lining up to drop Class IV-Troublemaker Rapid on the South Fork of the American River near Sacramento, Calif.



Challenge Aspen

Challenge Aspen Military Opportunities (C.A.M.O.)
Rocky Mountain Adventure
Summer 2008

"C.A.M.O. demonstrates our commitment and dedication to raising awareness, honoring and empowering injured servicemen and women and their families through quality adaptive recreational and educational experiences," said Sarah Williams Volf, director.

Eric Edmundson, a retired U.S. Army Sergeant, and IED survivor with anoxic and traumatic brain injuries participated in the first Rocky Mountain Adventure. His family had this to say:

"A few things important to Eric are his love of family, being outdoors and being active.

Challenge Aspen gave him the opportunity to have all of this during his recent Aspen experience."

"The smile on Eric's face and the look of serenity let us know that his spirit was healing and life was being enjoyed." – The Edmundson Family



PING Helps Wounded Warriors Play Golf

PING Inc. has partnered with the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project to offer injured service members free custom fitted, personalized clubs. Qualifying Wounded Warriors attend at least 6 of 8 weekly clinics at major military medical centers across the U.S.

"After I was injured I was not sure if I would be able to participate in the sport that I learned to play growing up in Arizona (I attended ASU and have played Karsten countless times). But with the instruction that I have received from the WWDSP and the equipment that PING has so generously donated I don't see myself just playing again but playing well!" – Ryan Kules, 1st Lt., Retired



Telluride Adaptive Sports

Winter Adventure Camp
March 2008

A week of alpine adventure as the Wounded Warriors and their guests learn or enhance adaptive skiing and snowboarding skills, experience personal growth, and enjoy après ski events.



Army Sgt. Ryan Major during his first ski experience since his injury in Iraq.



Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing

Wounded Warrior Boating Weekend
August 2008

Seven Wounded Warriors from the Martinsburg (W.Va.) VA Medical Center, returned to Wintergreen Adaptive Sports for a weekend of kayaking and canoeing instruction. These heroes received basic water skills and safety instruction and then challenged the James River Class II rapids. The weekend also included being hosted by Wintergreen property owners, volleyball, swimming, and a barbecue on Saturday night. One of the highlights of the weekend was Army Cpl. Jeremy Garland completing his first kayak roll.



Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project is a partnership between Disabled Sports USA and Wounded Warrior Project