



DS/USA's Mentoring Program Gains Ground with Funding Opportunities

Photo courtesy of Ken Watson



Patrick Parnell, a 14-year-old above knee amputee skier (far right), turns to his mentors, Monte Meier (far left) and Matt Perkins, to get some pointers on his performance during the National Race Festival at The Hartford Ski Spectacular 2007.

The Disabled Sports USA (DS/USA) Youth Sports Mentoring Program has exploded out of the 2008 gate, offering all DS/USA chapters a grant opportunity to help them implement a formal youth sports mentoring program.

Currently, 13 of the 22 trained chapters are taking advantage of the 2008 funding opportunity to join DS/USA's goal to increase youth sports involvement and to foster social interaction between people of all abilities.

"The DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program is really going to reinforce the importance of our existing sports programs," said Kelly Behlmann, executive director of Disabled Athlete Sports Association, whose chapter has recently received mentoring training from DS/USA. "Having our more experienced participants and volunteers mentor our youth participants will encourage them to live a more physically active lifestyle."

DS/USA offers chapters a variety of flexible mentoring models they can implement within their existing year-round, seasonal or event programs. The Sports Trainer Model is designed to train volunteer adaptive instructors to become mentors for youth throughout adaptive sports and recreation programs. It has proven to be an especially popular model among the chapters.

More information about the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program, including a detailed description of each

of the program's mentoring models, can be found at www.dsusa.org/mentoring.html. This Web site also contains a mentoring FAQ section, details on DS/USA's chapter and mentor trainings, and information on how DS/USA chapters can start their own youth sports mentoring program.

If interested in getting your child involved or volunteering with the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program, contact Adam Scott at (240) 268-1250 or e-mail ascott@dsusa.org.



Chapters Trained:

AbilityPLUS (N.H.); AbilityPLUS (Vt.); Adaptive Adventures (Colo.); **Adaptive Sports Center of Crested Butte (Colo.);** Adaptive Sports Foundation (N.Y.); Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (Colo.); **Challenge Alaska (Alaska);** **Challenge New Mexico (N.M.);** **Common Ground Outdoor Adventures (Utah);** **Disabled Athlete Sports Association (Mo.);** **DS/USA New England (N.H.);** **Greek Peak Adaptive Snowsports (N.Y.);** **Maine Handicapped Skiing (Maine);** **National Ability Center (Utah);** **National Sports Center for the Disabled (Colo.);** **Northeast Passage (N.H.);** **Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago;** **San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation (Calif.);** **Telluride Adaptive Sports (Colo.);** **UCO Disabled Sports & Events (Okla.);** **Vermont Adaptive Skiing & Sports (Vt.);** **Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (Va.)**

Red text indicates Chapters receiving funding from the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program in 2008.

Kirk Bauer Receives Distinguished Service Award



Kirk Bauer, J.D., DS/USA's executive director, received the Silver Shingle Distinguished Service Award for Community Service, from the Boston University School of Law. This award is presented to the alumna/us who has made a significant contribution to her/his community either through a volunteer or appointed position.

Joining Bauer as he received the award from his alma mater were: Kathy Chandler, Ability Plus; Bob Keas, HUB; Steve Spinetto, Mayor Mannino's Commissioner on Disability; and Tony Santilli, fellow Vietnam veteran. Past recipients include: F. Lee Bailey, Hon. Barbara C. Jordan, Sumner Redstone, and Geraldo Rivera.

Do You Have Pain?

The Translational Pain Research Group at the Brigham and Women's Hospital is seeking individuals with **chronic pain** as a result of **Spinal Cord Injury** to participate in a research study.

Volunteers must:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 55;
- Be in good physical health;
- Have had pain for at least 3 months

Volunteers who qualify for the study will be reimbursed for their time. The cost of travel to and from BWH will also be reimbursed.

For more information please call 617-525-7246 (PAIN) or email PainTrials@partners.org



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

DS/USA Welcomes Kat Poster and Adam Scott

Kat Poster joined the DS/USA staff in September, 2007 as the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project intern. She became a full-time employee in February and continues her work with WWDSP while also assisting with the Youth Sports Mentoring Program.

Poster graduated from Gettysburg College in May 2007 with a bachelor of arts degree in history and an additional concentration in environmental science. An avid athlete herself, Kat was a member of the Gettysburg College Women's Varsity Soccer team for four years. She additionally worked at the school's admissions office assisting in student recruiting, reviewing applications, and being a tour guide.

Poster loves sports and working with people and finds that DS/USA provides the perfect combination of both. She is a native of Scarsdale, N.Y.



Adam Scott joined the DS/USA team in December 2007 as its Youth Sports Mentoring Program manager, after serving more than five months as the organization's intern. Scott, originally from West Terre Haute, Ind., earned his master's of science degree in sport management from Purdue University in May 2007. During his two years as a Boilermaker, he served as the university's sports

information department graduate assistant.

Prior to attending Purdue, Scott graduated from Indiana State University in 2005 with a bachelor of science degree in sport management and a minor in business administration. He spent three years working as a student-manager for the Sycamores' cross-country, indoor and outdoor track and field program before serving as the marketing and sales intern for the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind., during the summer of 2005.

Scott enjoys working at DS/USA because he loves being involved with sports and recreation activities while also helping people to realize their full potential in life.