



Disabled Sports USA

Founded in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans, Disabled Sports USA provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to rebuild their lives through sports, recreation and educational programs. DS/USA is a national multi-sport, multi-disability organization serving more than 60,000 youth and adults annually. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, DS/USA offers programs through its nationwide network of 98 community-based chapters operating in 38 states.

Mission Statement

To provide the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to gain confidence and dignity through participation in sports, recreation and related educational programs.

Youth Sports Mentoring Program Mission

To provide opportunities for youth with disabilities to develop greater self-confidence, independence and a healthier, more physically active lifestyle by developing effective mentoring relationships using sports and recreation activities as the basis



Ariel Liker (left) prepares for a warm-up run on the track with her mentor CPT Leslie Smith, U.S. Army during a DS/USA event.

www.dsusa.org



DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program

“The two words THANK YOU do not seem to be enough... you have given us a chance to make a new friend for life!”

~ Tammy Butler - Parent

“Being a mentor was a great experience... everyone should do it! Adults are the path, but the kids pave it with gold... they’re our future.”

~ SPC Scott Winkler, US Army - Mentor

“Thank you for the experience! I enjoyed it very much... my mentor was a very nice person to be around. He made it a positive and inspirational experience.”

~ Luke Paliocha - Mentee

For more information, please contact:

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DISABLED SPORTS USA YOUTH SPORTS MENTORING PROGRAM



Mentor SPC Scott Winkler, U.S. Army (left) and his mentee, Josh Ruoff, take a break together from track & field practice.

Serving Youth Through Sports

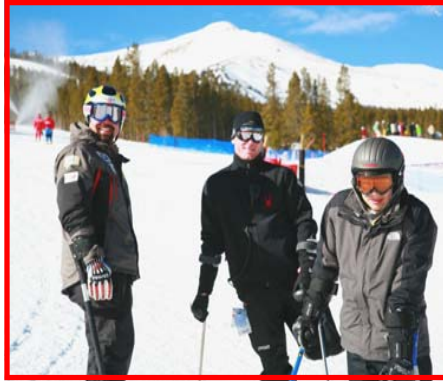


National Corporate Partner

www.dsusa.org/mentoring.html



Mentor Tawan Williamson and his mentee, Logan McCrory, at a track competition during a DS/USA summer event.



Patrick Parnell (far right) turns to his mentors, Monte Meier (far left) and Matt Perkins, to get some pointers on alpine ski racing at The Hartford Ski Spectacular 2007.



Justin Lynn (left) teaches his mentee, Cody McCasland how to throw a javelin.



About the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program

The DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program is a nationwide initiative conducted in partnership with its chapters to increase youth sports involvement and to foster social interaction between people of all abilities through mentoring.

Mentoring through sports & physical activity not only promotes the development of athletic skills and encourages healthy active lifestyles, but it also supports the development of independent living and social skills among youth with disabilities. Mentoring relationships within this program occurs face-to-face within a sports or recreation venue, and also via phone and email contact.

Disabled Sports USA offers its chapters a variety of flexible mentoring models to help them implement youth mentoring within their sport and recreation programming.

To get involved, please contact Adam Scott at DS/USA:
Email - ascott@dsusa.org or Voice - (240) 268-1250

Sponsors of the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program:

U.S. Department of Education

Daniels Fund

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation



Start a Mentoring Program

Is your chapter interested in providing youth the opportunity to participate in sports and recreation? Would you like to help young people make a strong, personal connection with a positive role model through sports? If so, then getting involved in the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring program may be a great fit for your chapter!

Disabled Sports USA will work one-on-one with each interested chapter to identify how mentoring will best fit into their adaptive sports/recreation programming, to explore partnership opportunities with local Big Brothers Big Sisters or like organizations, and to schedule mentor training sessions.

Among the several mentoring models that DS/USA offers its chapters is the Sports Trainer Model. This model revolves around identifying volunteer adaptive instructors to mentor youth with disabilities while they participate in the chapter's ongoing adaptive sports and recreation programming together.

Chapter Benefits:

- Grant Opportunities
- Provides Opportunities for Youth Participation
- Reinforces Existing Programming
- Interests and Retains Volunteers
- Publicity Opportunities
- Partnership Opportunities

Please contact Adam Scott at ascott@dsusa.org or (240) 268-1250 to learn how your chapter can get involved in mentoring.

Mentoring Through Sports

"A child with a disability is faced with many challenges: 'I can't, it's too hard.' But when they are introduced to sports and paired with a mentor with similar disabilities, those challenges turn into opportunities: 'I can, that was easy, I DID IT!'"

Justin Lynn - Wounded Warrior & DS/USA Mentor

Sports and recreation activities provide the ideal arena for mentors and mentees to get together to experience a shared passion. Not only does sports and recreation activities serve as an immediate interest between a match, but it also promotes a healthy, active lifestyle.

Through sports, mentors and mentees can work together to identify and accomplish measurable goals such as the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (www.presidentschallenge.org). Success in sports builds self-confidence and independence, as the DS/USA motto goes:

"If I Can Do This, I Can Do Anything!"

How to Get Involved

To express your interest in participating in the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program as a mentor, mentee or volunteer administrative assistant, please contact Disabled Sports USA:

Adam Scott, Mentoring Program Manager
Email: ascott@dsusa.org
Voice: (240) 268-1250
Fax: (301) 217-0968