



**Adaptive
Adventures**

Experience

Winter 2007-2008

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Powell

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MISSION STATEMENT
 The mission of Adaptive Adventures is to identify, promote, and provide progressive sports and recreation opportunities to improve quality of life for children and adults with physical disabilities.

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- Matt Feeney - Program Director
- Mau Thompson - Program Director
- Rebecca Archibald - Office Manager
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Director's Spin



Greetings from Adaptive Adventures,

To say the summer of 2007 was busy would be an understatement. With more events, participants, partners, and programs, we again pushed the limits of our volunteers and staff. In addition to our annual staples like Camp Trek, STARS of Tomorrow Youth camp, Rocky Mountain Omnium, Bike Tour of Colorado, Longmont Water-ski Festival, and numerous single day clinics, we added many new offerings. Highlights included a large increase in programs working with recently injured armed forces personnel through the Extremity Games in Orlando, a new water-ski event in Albany, NY, and a military trip on Lake Powell in partnership with Telluride Adaptive Sports. In Chicago, our formal partnership with Kayak Chicago led to over 20 days of adaptive kayak programming with over one dozen different groups, and put over 200 people with disabilities on the water!

We owe special thanks to several key seasonal staff and volunteers that made all of this quality growth possible and safe. Dave Schmid in Evergreen, Scott Smit in Denver, and Dave Olson from Chicago all put in countless hours and even more passion to make our summer programs a big success.

As we now start to put away the summer equipment and break out the alpine and nordic ski gear, we are looking forward to another winter packed with back to back fun and adventure. We are especially excited about our expanded presence and camp as part of SnoFest in Keystone, Colorado at the end of January. This military event, in partnership with the Keystone Adaptive Center, will include participation from all of the major armed forces medical centers in the country and will spread the Adaptive Adventures mission throughout military bases around the globe.

On behalf of all the Adaptive Adventures staff and dedicated crew of volunteers who work to make each event safe yet challenging, we wish you a great winter of adventure.

Joel Berman - Executive Director

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Adaptive Sports for Kids (ASK) Program



ASK helps to transport kids from the sidelines of life to ride, glide, paddle, and play sports that previously existed only in their dreams. The program gives children and

youth the opportunity to achieve what they thought impossible and to keep their hope and dreams alive. Through involvement in sports and recreation, children learn that "if I can do this...I can do anything."

Featured summer events included the Colorado and Michigan Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camps, Camp Trek in Illinois, STARS of Tomorrow Camp in Colorado, and over a dozen cycling, kayak, and water-ski clinics. New partnerships were developed with the Chicago Park District, North Suburban Special Recreation Association, Mary Freebred Rehabilitation Hospital as well as continuing working relationships with many parks and recreation associations and nonprofit organizations. 2007 was another record year, serving nearly 500 different kids with disabilities and an equal number of able bodied youth.



"A picture is worth 1000 words"



Partners



Winter Ski Camp Series Continues to Expand

In the world of adaptive sports and recreation, alpine skiing is the King of the Hill! With the force of gravity on your side, individuals of all abilities are flying down the ski slopes around the country in ever increasing numbers. Alpine skiing is the only sport where the focus is on controlling not generating momentum! A sport that enables a disabled individual to overcome physical limitations and fulfill their need for adventure, exercise, a sense of accomplishment, and speed.

Adaptive Adventures has helped to meet the growing demand for adaptive skiing by continuing to expand our cutting-edge All Mountain Camps and Train the Trainer Clinics for children and adults with physical disabilities. At the same time, we continue to provide increased resources to major adaptive ski events around the country. Most of our camp series events also provide instruction to the newly injured men and women of the armed forces and other disabled veterans. We look forward to working with the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project and sponsors like Boeing Company and El Pomar Foundation to provide an increasing number of disabled soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan with the opportunity to experience adaptive sports. We expect to work with our nation's heroes at a minimum of six of America's top ski resorts this winter.

Again, the highlight of the 2008 season will be a series of All Mountain Ski Camps. With perhaps the most exciting event, a new All Mountain Ski and Ride Camp for Wounded Military in Keystone, Colorado as part of SnoFest. This camp will mark our first major winter partnership with the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) through their satellite operation Keystone Adaptive Center.

Other featured adult camps include the 6th Annual All Mountain camp in Vail, Colorado from January 10-13 and the 3rd Annual Steamboat All Mountain Camp and Powdercat Trip from January 19-22. Other camps run in collaboration with other programs are the 8th Annual Expand Your Horizons Camp, in Telluride, CO from February 4-8 and the 4th Annual Monoski Madness Camp at Spirit Mountain, MN from February 26-29.

What winter season would be complete without a growing schedule for youth skiers. The season starts with the Hartford Ski Spectacular, which will again offer a youth ski and race camp. Then, in partnership with Vail Resorts Adaptive Program, the 4th Annual STARS Youth Ski Camp will hit the slopes from February 22-24. As if this were not enough, we plan to add a second STARS Youth Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO this season!

All Adaptive Adventures camp will feature our own certified staff as well as top certified adaptive instructors from around the country including Paralympic medallists, coaches, and former US Disabled Ski



First Lieutenant Jeffrey Adams at SnoFest 2007. Jeff has undergone 15 surgeries since his injury and is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Louisiana War Cross, and various training and war-time medals.



Group shot from 2007 Vail All Mountain Camp.

Team members. "Skiing has become much more popular, as well as more accessible and available, to people with disabilities over the past decade," says Matt Feeny, Director of Adaptive Adventures PSIA Ski School. "More resorts around the country are offering programs and equipment for disabled skiers. Instruction is also getting better across the board as more ski instructors cross over to the adaptive arena and the equipment and methods of teaching improve, but we are always looking to push the limit with new and exciting events."

Disabled Veterans Experience The Time of Their Lives

The second of three Lake Powell trips this summer was one of the more exceptional trips in recent memory. The trip, which was a collaboration between Adaptive Adventures and the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program, included 7 disabled veterans, who have served in various branches of the armed forces over the last 30 years. This was the first time any of the participants had been to Lake Powell and it was truly a unique experience for the group, who had traveled from all over the country to make the trip.

"We have envisioned getting disabled veterans to Lake Powell for years," commented Executive Director Joel Berman, "and it is exciting to finally make this happen. The group was a great mix of recently wounded service members and individuals from past conflicts. This is a great addition to the services we are offering to our nations military in need."

Josh Sharpe has been paraplegic for over a decade and has participated in Adaptive Adventures winter and summer programs in the past. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to experience this place that I've heard so much about" said Sharpe from Florida. "You can get an idea of what it's like by looking at pictures, but actually being there gives you a real perspective".



Josh Sharpe wakeboarding at Lake Powell.

The days on the lake were filled with water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, Jet skiing and kayaking. At night, the group enjoyed gourmet meals and campfires, telling jokes, stories and reminiscing about the days' events.

"This was one of the more energetic groups we've had on the houseboat" said Program Director, Matt Feeney. "Everybody was up very early every morning to have breakfast and get out on the flat water and the action was non stop all week". Since only two of the 7 participants had ever water- skied before the trip, the goal for the week was to get everybody comfortable in the water and as independent as possible. "It was amazing to see these guys progress so fast" said Adaptive Adventures instructor Nick Espinoza. "Everyone improved a great deal, even the participants who had skied before." The group also took a day trip south to visit Rainbow Bridge, the largest natural rock arch in

North America.

"Everyone's exhausted" said Espinoza, who had not been to Lake Powell since 1993, "it is always a little sad when you have to leave such a beautiful place. I cannot image a better trip for civilians or soldiers, abled or disabled to have the time of their life." No wonder people returning from Lake Powell often need a vacation after their vacation!



**Wounded Warrior
Disabled Sports Project**



For more information
info@AdaptiveAdventures.org



Adaptive News

Veterans' Adaptive Activities Day in Chicago

On September 8th, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs organized a day of fun, food, games, music, and inclusive fitness for local disabled veterans and their families. The Adaptive Adventures team, supported by many top volunteers, was on hand with an expo booth and adaptive kayaking opportunities for all.

The weather was near perfect for the numerous program providers on hand to help out local Vets. Activities included cycling, football, rugby, sailing, tennis, basketball, and other. Lunch was also a big hit, provided by Gus and the Kostas Z Foundation.



Twin Lakes Water-ski and Kayak Clinic

The Twin Lakes Adapted Water-ski clinic again proved to be a great opportunity for kids and adults to get out on the water in the Chicago area. This year the clinic was not organized and run by RIC Sports as in the past. In their absence, event founders Shelly Williams and Susan Richey, along with Adaptive Adventures and Dreams for Kids came together to keep the clinic alive.

Once again, kayaking had an increased part in the clinic with over 30 people taking time to paddle during the two days. "When Blake jumped in the kayak, we couldn't get him out for an hour! He loved it," noted one of the kids group staff members.

A special thanks to the Aquanuts Waterski Team and Creative Mobility for helping to make the event another memorable experience for all involved.



8th Annual Greg Reilly Memorial Golf Gathering September 17, 2008

The weather was a bit suspect for this year's Greg Reilly Memorial, but the support of over 140 players, sponsors, and volunteers was 100 percent. The event again raised nearly \$30,000 to support our programs for children and adults with physical disabilities.

Event title sponsors were Coors Brewing Company and Lodo Restaurant Group. Hole sponsors included: Allegro Coffee, The Boyle Family, Budweiser, Corona, Floridays, Matt Mannion, The McLaughlin Family, National Distributing, Pepsi, The Petersen Family, Pinnacle Distributing, The Reilly Family, Robinson Dairy, Romano's Pizzeria, Sleepy Cat Guest Ranch, Specialized Moving Services, Steamworks Brewing Company, Westminster Excavating, Whitehall's Alpine Distributing, and Doug Zueger / Gallery One. Thank you to every one who made the event a great success.



Mau Thompson Joins Adaptive Team

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the addition of Mau Thompson as a full-time staff member of Adaptive Adventures. We have worked with Mau for the past eight years and know that she will be a huge addition to our winter and summer programs.

Mau has spent the past seven years working with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD). She is a certified USSA Race Coach and Level II PSIA Adaptive Instructor. Mau also helped found a similar organization, Adaptive World, in Japan.

Hiring someone with Mau's passion and experience will be instrumental in taking Adaptive Adventures to the next level. Welcome aboard Mau!



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Volunteer Spotlight - Matt Schallmoser

For eight years, Matt Schallmoser has been a mainstay of the Adaptive Adventures water-ski and wakeboard program. Matt is not only one of the best adaptive wakeboarders in the country, but his skills as a teacher and program leader have been instrumental in the development of our Aqua Sports programs. As a lead instructor for Adaptive Adventures at the O&P Extremity Games in Orlando this summer, Matt helped get over 35 participants with a wide range of physical disabilities on the water. While in Orlando, Matt also won 1st Place in the sit wakeboard division at the event.

In addition to working with the water-ski wakeboard program, Matt has always been available to help with other program events and fundraisers. Whether acting as a gate keeper at the Hartford Ski Spectacular, a course marshall at the Rocky Mountain Omnium, or manning a hole at the Greg Reilly Memorial Golf Gathering, Matt always has a smile on his face and a positive attitude.

"It is very gratifying for me to volunteer for Adaptive Adventures. I have always loved the program as a participant and I get so much out of giving back to others in need. My favorite part of volunteering is getting to work with kids and to be a part of helping to change their lives," Matt commented after a recent event.

Next summer, we are hoping to raise the funds to bring Matt on as a seasonal staff member, with the goal of building up the water-ski and wakeboard programs in the Chicago area. If we can make this happen, it will be a great thing for many people.



Matt Schallmoser gets BIG Air at the O&P Extremity Games in Orlando this summer.



Athlete Spotlight: Gwen Johnson - Age 7 By: Saren Johnson

Before we had kids, my husband Joel and I skied almost every year. We always watched in amazement at the little kids barreling down the mountain and looked forward to the day that our children would do the same, no doubt becoming better skiers than us by the time they were four. When Gwen and her twin brother Nick were born 13 weeks early, each weighting under two pounds, all of our dreams for their future were put on hold. After they were diagnosed at 18 months with cerebral palsy we knew that many of our dreams for their future would have to change.

Now six years after their diagnosis we have learned that when your child has a disability you have to push them and yourself to try everything, knowing that sometimes things work and sometimes they don't but you don't know until you try. This is what led us to the Adaptive Adventures Stars of Tomorrow Youth Ski Camp.

When we signed Gwen up to go to Vail we expected that we'd strap her in some hardware and slide her down the hill. She would have a good time going fast and we'd call it skiing.

Never did we think that she would actually learn to ski. But she did, in her own way, and like all of us she will get better with practice. The superb instructors engaged her the whole time and worked with her at a level that made her successful, yet pushed her to achieve a little bit more on each run. It was unusual and very exciting to see Gwen try so hard to accomplish something new. The other great thing was that Gwen got to meet other successful people with disabilities. These are role models that she doesn't have at home. For once she was like everyone else – wheels and all.

The Stars of Tomorrow Youth Ski Camp was a life changing experience for Gwen. She talks about it all the time and if you ask her to name her most prized personal possession she will tell you without a doubt – her ski goggles.



Gwen glides down Vail Mountain at the 2007 STARS Youth Ski Camp.

Adaptive Cycling Experience Rolls through the Summer

With the addition of David Schmid to the Colorado cycling team, the Adaptive Cycling Experience had our best summer to date. A combination of kids programs, clinics, races, and tours kept staff and volunteers busy from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Highlights included two Jr. Wheelchair Sports camps, several park district and program clinics, the addition of the US Paralympic Road Championships to the Rocky Mountain Omnium, and another success Bike Tour of Colorado.

Once again, the Colorado Jr. Wheelchair sports camp put nearly 100 kids on bikes during the week. New this summer, Adaptive Adventures traveled to Michigan to run the cycling component of the Grand Rapids Jr. Wheelchair camp. The camp had an awesome group of nearly 70 kids and young adults, most of whom enjoyed riding on the indoor track and around the campus.

With the US Handcycling Federation taking over the role of lead organizer for the 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Omnium, the event also hosted the USHF National Road and Time Trial Championships as well as the US Paralympics Road National Championship. The new time trial course at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, CO was a big hit with all the racers. The event also featured the Adaptive Adventures Cycling Clinic that was integrated in with the Road Championships and offered many opportunities for interaction between local participants, rehabilitation hospitals, and elite racers.



Alejandro Albor leads the pack enroute to his third straight RMO HCC Championship.



Adaptive Cycling Team at the Bike Tour of Colorado. (Below) Disabled Veteran Mark Drake not only rode the entire route, but also helped support the group with his Suburban, bike maintenance skills, and smile!



Cycling was a big hit at the Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camps in both Denver, CO and Grand Rapids, MI.



Beyond Boundaries - Partnership in the Outdoors

The first annual Beyond Boundaries outdoor adventure program was held September 20-23, 2007 at Mississippi Palisades State Park in Savanna, Illinois. The event provided a rich and challenging outdoor adventure experience for 37 people, including individuals with spinal cord injury, their friends and families, and the health care professionals that support them in their rehabilitation and therapy. The program is a partnership between the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Illinois, Adaptive Adventures, the top five rehabilitation hospitals in the Chicago area, and Hines VA.

This year's participants included teams from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Hines VA. The event created an opportunity for participants to challenge themselves physically and mentally while working toward common goals in an outdoor setting. Highlights of the weekend included rock climbing with Hidden Peaks, kayaking with Kayak Chicago Adaptive Adventures, cycling with Creative Mobility, and camping in some of Illinois' most scenic areas.

We are already receiving inquiries from all the local rehabilitation hospitals and the VA about bringing teams in 2008. Based on strong demand and program outcomes, we are planning to hold two Beyond Boundaries camps next year...dates to be announced by the end of this year.



Partner Profile: Kayak Chicago

www.AdaptiveKayaking.com



www.KayakChicago.com

2007 marked the first year of an exciting new community partnership between Kayak Chicago and Adaptive Adventures. The partnership combined the strengths of both organizations to create expanded paddling opportunities and knowledge for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Kayak Chicago is a top provider of instruction, group outings, and equipment throughout the Chicago area. Kayak Chicago founder, Dave Olson has been working with people of all abilities for more than a decade. His vast experience and commitment to paddling for ALL is the driving force behind this new effort.

With four locations throughout the Chicago area, Kayak Chicago can handle everyone's needs including instruction, rentals, trips, and more!



Winter 2007-2008 Featured Events Calendar*

December

TBD	Instructor and Volunteer Training (2 day)	Vail, CO
2-9	20th Annual Hartford Ski Spectacular	Breckenridge, CO
5	Nordic Race	Frisco, CO
6-7	Level II Slalom and Giant Slalom Races	Breckenridge, CO
TBD	Train the Trainer Clinic	Telluride, CO
TBD	Train the Trainer Clinic	Powderhorn, CO

January

9-13	6th Annual Vail All Mountain Ski Camp	Vail, CO
18	Train the Trainer Ski Clinic	Steamboat Springs, CO
19-22	3rd Annual Steamboat All Mountain Ski Camp	Steamboat Springs, CO
22	Steamboat Powdercat Day	Steamboat Springs, CO
23-27	Adaptive Ski & Ride Camp as part of SnoFest	Keystone, CO

February

4-8	8th Annual Expand Your Horizons Ski Camp	Telluride, CO
22-24	4th Annual STARS Youth Ski Camp	Vail, CO
26-29	4th Annual Great Lakes Monoski Madness Camp	Spirit Mountain, MN

March

TBD	STARS Youth Ski Camp	Steamboat Springs, CO
TBD	Train the Trainer Clinic	TBD

April

1-7	Disabled American Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	Snowmass, CO
26	Volunteer Appreciation Party	Arapahoe Basin, CO

*check

AdaptiveAdventures.org
for additional programs

Local, Regional, and National
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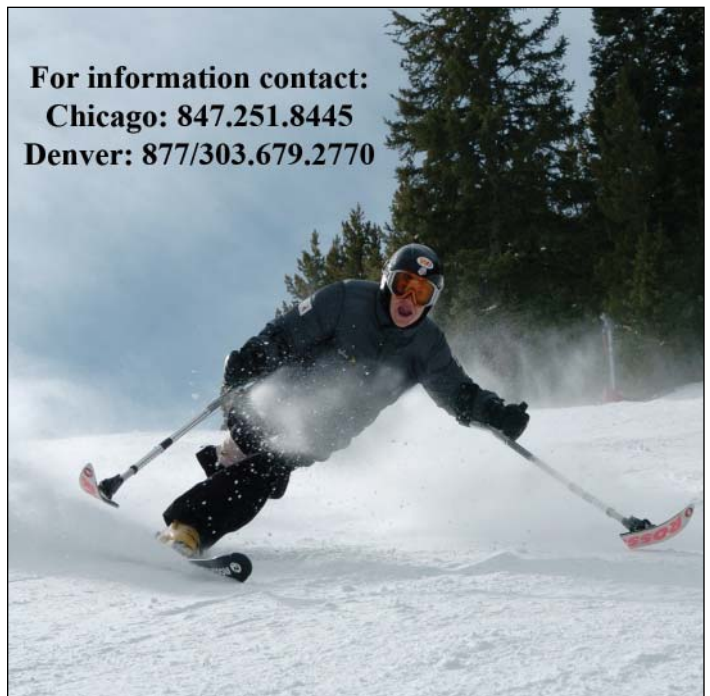
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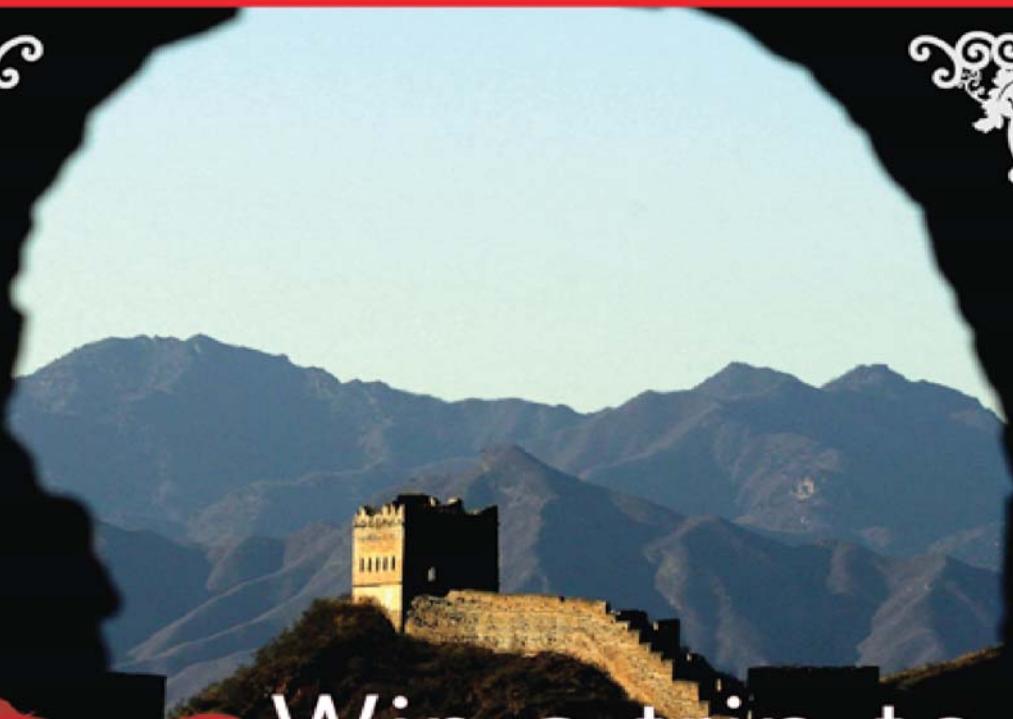
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U.S. Paralympics is taking a group of students with physical disabilities, coaches and teachers to the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China. Go to www.usparalympics.org to fill out an application and enter for your chance to see elite competition and meet Paralympic athletes!



www.usparalympics.org

Photos: Getty Images and Hamilton Photography