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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Disabled Sports USA and Wounded Warrior Project Announce Sports Rehabilitation Schedule for Wounded Warriors for Summer 2008**

*Sports rehabilitation program, to teach lifelong sports skills, offered **free-of-cost** to severely wounded service members and their families for fifth consecutive year*

**Rockville, MD** - Severely wounded service members who have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, will participate in a summer long sports rehabilitation program offered by **Disabled Sports USA** (DS/USA) in partnership with 35 of its local chapters and **Wounded Warrior Project**. This summer's activities for the **Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project** will include a series of more than 35 "learn-to" clinics in cycling, golf, sailing, outrigger canoeing, kayaking, scuba, rock climbing, camping, water skiing, rafting, wake boarding, track and field, fishing and other sports.

Advanced level training and competitions are also offered to help the Wounded Warriors to remain active throughout their lives. Several of the Wounded Warriors have been certified as scuba divers, and some are training to be Paralympians, as a result of this program. Many have become active in local DS/USA chapter activities, once they return to civilian life.

Wounded Warrior Project leads AIG and others in funding the program, enabling DS/USA to provide all sports programs *free of charge* for severely wounded service members and their families. This includes costs for transportation, special adaptive sports equipment, training from qualified adaptive sports instructors, lodging, meals and other costs.

"The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project is a successful partnership with Disabled Sports USA and we are honored to be able to offer severely wounded service members and their families opportunities to participate in recreational activities," stated John

Melia, Executive Director and Founder of Wounded Warrior Project. “The road to recovery is measured in years and through the WWDSPP, we will continue to grow a community offering active rehabilitation to engage wounded soldiers for a lifetime.”

“The 2008 summer programs will continue to provide opportunities to show our Wounded Warriors that they can live an active life with their new physical challenges.” said Kirk Bauer, executive director of Disabled Sports USA and a disabled Vietnam veteran.

“We will conduct programs throughout the USA, taking these deserving Wounded Warriors to some fantastic venues, including river rafting and kayaking in Colorado, sailing across the Atlantic, scuba diving in Florida and the Caribbean, water skiing in New York, Texas and California; surfing in California and North Carolina; golfing and cycling at courses and paths near the hospitals where they are convalescing and many other activities” Bauer added.

Activities will be held for severely wounded service members rehabilitating in Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas; Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego California; and Veterans Hospitals in Tampa Florida and Palo Alto California and other medical centers. Wounded Warriors discharged from the military will also have the opportunity to continue to participate at DS/USA national and chapter programs throughout the USA, so they can maintain an active sports life.

In addition to **Wounded Warrior Project**, sponsors include **American International Group (AIG)** (DS/USA National Corporate Partner); Bank of America; The Chart Group; Ariel Corporation; Trijicon; Non Commissioned Officers Association; Marine Corps Celebrity Classic; Robert Trent Jones Golf Club Charitable Foundation; Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC); Moore Capital Management; LLC; Battelle, Franklin Templeton Investments, SeaMobile Enterprises, Tee it up for the Troops, PGA America, Genatt Associates, Veritas Capital, Willbros, Inc., Lehman Brothers, The Glades Foundation & others.

DS/USA chapters partnering with the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project includes: Ability Plus, NH; Adaptive Sports Association, CO; Adaptive Adventures, CO; Adaptive Sports Center of Crested Butte, CO; Adaptive Sports Foundation, NY; Bart J. Ruggiere Adaptive Sports Center, VT; Blue Ridge Adaptive Snow Sports, PA; Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center, CO; Bretton Woods Adaptive, Inc, NH; Cape Ability Ohana Outrigger Inc., NY; Challenge Alaska, AK; Challenged Athletes of West Virginia, WV; Challenge Aspen, CO; DS/USA Eastern Sierra, CA; DS/USA Far West, CA; DS/USA New England (WMASS at Loon), NH; Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association, IL; Greek Peak Sports for the Disabled, NY; Maine Handicapped Skiing, ME; Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled, AZ; Michigan Adaptive Sports, MI; Lakeshore Foundation, AL; National Sports Center for the Disabled, CO; New England Handicapped Sports Association, NH; North County Access Cycling, NY; Project Mobility, IL; San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation, CA; Soldiers Undertaking SCUBA

Diving, MD; STRIDE, NY; Team River Runner, MD; Telluride Adaptive Sports Program, CO; The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition, OH; UCO Disabled Sports and Events, OK; USARC, CA; Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing, VA.

### **About the Wounded Warrior Project**

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors. WWP serves to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. For more information, please call (904) 296-7350 or visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

### **About 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 90 community-based chapters operating in 36 states. For schedules and additional information, visit [www.dsusa.org/woundedwarrior.html](http://www.dsusa.org/woundedwarrior.html) call (301) 217-9840.

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## **Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project 2008 Summer Program Schedule**

### **June**

Team River Runner CO Kayak Trip  
14 – 29, CO (Intermediate/Advanced)

DS/USA Far West “Their Spirit Inspires”  
17 – 20 Sacramento CA

Challenge Aspen Rocky Mnt. Adventure  
22 – 27, Aspen CO

Brooke Army Medical Ctr PGA Golf Training Program  
4, 11, 18, 25, Fort Sam Golf Course, TX

### **July**

New York Adaptive Water Sports Festival  
10 – 13, New York, NY (WRAMC/Driving ONLY)

Wounded Warrior Golf Clinic @ The Former Members of Congress Golf Tournament  
14, Army Navy Country Club, Arlington VA

North County Access Cycling Universal Access to Fun  
18 – 20, Watertown NY (Alumni\*)

Soldier Ride Empire State Challenge  
23 – 27, New York NY

O&P Extremity Games  
24-27, Detroit, MI

### **August**

TAASC Water Sports Camp  
1 – 3, Columbus, OH (Alumni\*)

Billabong Surf Camp West Coast  
1 – 3, Camp Pendelton, CA (NMCSD/BAMC)

Wounded Warrior Kayak and Canoe Weekend  
1 – 3, Lake Monocan, VA

Adaptive Water Sports Festival  
1 – 4, Burden Lake, NY (Alumni\*)

Adaptive Adventures Chicago Air & Water Show  
13 – 17, Chicago IL

Salute the Troops – Kayak Camp NSCD  
14 - 17, Winter Park, CO

Northeast Coalition WWDSF Weekend  
20 – 24, Northern NH

Aspen Wilderness Experience (Challenge Aspen)  
17 – 23, Aspen CO (Alumni\*)

### **September**

Team River Runner ID Kayak Trip  
4 – 11, ID (Alumni\*)

Team River Runner Biathlon  
7, Washington DC

Billabong Surf Camp East Coast  
11-14, Camp Le Jeune, NC (WRAMC)

Rochester River Challenge – CAOUI (Canoe Race)  
12 - 14, Rochester NY (Alumni\*)

Veterans/No Boundaries Weekend with MHS  
(paddling; fishing; cycling; riflery)

12 – 14, Camp Caribou, Winslow, ME  
(Alumni\*)

ASC of Crested Butte (Rafting, Mnt. Bike, Ropes Crse)  
12 – 19, Crested Butte, CO (BAMC)

SoldierRide High Desert Challenge  
22 – 26, Las Vegas NV

Challenge Aspen Rocky Mnt. Exp. (TBI Camp)  
Aspen CO

Stephen Siller Tunnel to Tower 5k Run  
New York, NY

DEMA SCUBA Check Out Dive  
Sept 27 – Oct 4, Bonaire (Tentative / Alumni\*)

## **October**

First Swing Golf Clinic  
10, Woodmont CC, Rockville, MD (WRAMC)

Team River Runner Virgin Islands  
15 – 29, St Johns (Disability Specific)

SoldierRide Carolinas Challenge  
22 – 26, Camp Le Jeune NC

HUB Financial Golf Charities Tournament Boston, MA (Alumni\*)

## **November**

BLESMA Trans-Atlantic Sail (Alumni by invitation)  
2 – 25, Cape Verde to Barbados

SoldierRide Honky Tonk Challenge  
12 – 16, Little Rock AR to Nashville TN

**Ongoing**

Team River Runner Kayak Training (from Jan 29' 08)  
Tues, 1500 at WRAMC (PT) and ongoing weekend programs in DC, VA, MD and PA

Adaptive Sports Association New Dimension Scholarship (multi-sport) Ongoing,  
Durango CO

*\* Alumni denotes veterans no longer undergoing full time therapy at a military medical facilities*