

VETERANS DAY

ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

On Veterans Day, we take the opportunity to thank Veterans for their service on behalf of our Nation. But it's also important to remember their sacrifices throughout the year. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) have partnered together to do just that by providing ongoing adaptive sporting opportunities for disabled Veterans in communities nationwide.



ENDURANCE REDEFINED

ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES
VA PARALYMPIC PROGRAM OFFICE

REDEFINING SPORT: Studies have shown that sports can have a positive impact on the lives of Veterans who have suffered traumatic injuries. Sports not only help Veterans with their physical rehabilitation, but also improve their confidence, self-esteem and well-being. As such, VA and the USOC Paralympics have awarded grants to community organizations to fund adaptive sporting opportunities for Veterans.

A Sports Club Finder - available at: www.va.gov/adaptivesports/va_clubFinder.asp - connects Veterans with Paralympic Sports Clubs and other groups that provide sports programming and physical activity opportunities for disabled Veterans along with youth and adults with disabilities, regardless of skill level. All programs and activities at these organizations are based in the community and are run by a local organization. These programs not only encourage Veterans to learn new ways of staying physically and mentally fit, but strengthen camaraderie among disabled Veterans.

After training in their communities, Veterans can go on to compete in National VA or Paralympic sponsored events. VA hosts six national events each year that are designed to encourage disabled Veterans to explore ways to remain active, despite their injuries. The events range from the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival - where 120 Veterans are selected to display their musical and artistic talents - to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games - the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world. For additional information, visit www.va.gov/adaptivesports/.