

## NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events (NVSP&SE) office provides opportunities for health and healing through adaptive sports and therapeutic art programs. These specialized rehabilitation programs aim to optimize Veterans independence, community engagement, well-being, and quality of life.

**Our Vision:** To lead in the provision of adaptive sports and therapeutic arts rehabilitation for Veterans with disabilities.

### National Rehabilitation Programs within NVSP&SE

NVSP&SE office directs six national programs delivering direct patient care to Veterans under the authority of 38 United States Code 322. These programs embrace formalized adaptive sports medicine as a practice specialty and provide the largest coordinated therapeutic arts program for Veterans. The programs are built on clinical expertise within VA, with essential support from Veteran Service Organizations, corporate sponsors, individual donors and community partners.



**National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG)**, founded in 1981, serves Veterans with spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, amputations, stroke, and other neurological disorders that are eligible

for VA health care, providing adaptive sports for their rehabilitation, health and wellness. Veterans learn to live active and healthy lifestyles by competing in 19 different sports competitions, and receiving related health education. This is the largest wheelchair sports rehabilitation event for Veterans with disabilities in the United States. NVWG are co-presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

[www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org)



**National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG)**, founded in 1985, serve Veterans ages 55 years and older who are eligible for VA health care. Through its "Fitness for Life" motto, NVGAG is the only multi-sport competition designed to showcase the rehabilitative value that sports, wellness and fitness provide in the lives of senior Veterans. This progressive and adaptable sports program with 17

competitive events is a qualifying event for the National Senior Games and is available for Veterans with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

[www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov](http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov)



**National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC)**, founded in 1987, promotes sports therapy and rehabilitation through adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey and other adaptive physical activities and sports. The clinic also boasts a variety of workshops and educational sessions designed to help Veterans build upon this experience and continue to lead active, healthy lives once they return home. It is hosted by the Grand Junction Veterans Healthcare System as part of VA's Rocky Mountain Network. The NDVWSC is sponsored by VA and DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

[www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org)



**National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival (NVCAF)** was established in 1989, and recognizes the progress and recovery made by Veterans treated in VA through creative arts therapy. Veterans invited to participate at the annual Festival are selected gold medal winners of national art, music, dance, drama and writing competitions in which thousands of Veterans enter from VA medical facilities across the nation. Veterans exhibit their artwork, share their original writing, or perform music, dance or dramatic selections in a stage show. NVCAF is presented by the VA and the American Legion Auxiliary.

[www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov](http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov)

**National Disabled Veterans T.E.E. (Training, Exposure, Experience) Tournament**, founded in 1994, provides Veterans with disabilities with opportunities for rehabilitation, health and wellness through adaptive golf instruction and introduction to other adaptive sports. Hosted by the Iowa City VA Health Care System, this event serves Veterans with visual impairments, amputations, traumatic

brain injuries, psychological trauma, certain neurological conditions, spinal cord injuries and other life changing disabilities. This event is co-sponsored by VA and DAV.

[www.tee.va.gov](http://www.tee.va.gov)



**National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic (NVSSC)**, founded in 2008, promotes rehabilitation of body and spirit by teaching summer sporting activities to Veterans with significant physical or psychological impairments. Hosted by the VA San Diego Healthcare System, the clinic serves Veterans from across the country that are enrolled for VA health care with a variety of injuries, ranging from traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, visual impairments, neurological conditions, spinal cord injury, loss of limb, and other conditions presenting within the past six years.

[www.summersportsclinic.va.gov](http://www.summersportsclinic.va.gov)



**Monthly Assistance Allowance Program**

VA provides a monthly assistance allowance to Veterans with disabilities training in their respective Paralympic and Olympic sports. Under this program, VA pays a monthly stipend to Veterans with service-connected and nonservice-connected disabilities if they are actively training or competing as an emerging athlete and meet the criteria established by the sport governing body, or if they are selected as a member of the National Paralympic team. Additionally, Veterans with a 30 percent service-connected disability rating meeting the same criteria for Olympic sports are eligible to apply for this allowance.

**Adaptive Sport Grant Program**

As authorized under 38 United States Code 521A, VA provides grant funding of up to \$8 million to organizations to increase the availability of adaptive sport activities for Veterans and Servicemembers with disabilities. The goals and objectives of the grant program include providing adaptive sport activities designed to enhance the rehabilitative, therapeutic, and whole-life health of Veterans and Servicemembers across the complete spectrum of adaptive sport activities – from recreational through elite levels of competition. This is achieved through support for training of adaptive sports providers for delivery of sport, athlete assessment / classification, adaptive sport program development and equipping, and provision and instruction in adaptive sports. Grants range from national footprint to local community-based entries.

[www.va.gov/adaptivesports](http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports)

