

Disabled Sport USA

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Executive Director



Summary

Disabled Sports USA

Position on Sligo Creek Golf Course



- Do not support keeping open Sligo Creek Golf Course based on support for veterans
- Not enough numbers
- Several other local golf opportunities
- Profitability – poor use of taxpayer funds in tight economy

Background on Disabled Sports USA



- **Mission:** *Disabled Sports USA's mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs.*
- Founded in 1967 by disabled Vietnam Veterans
- One of nation's largest multi-sport, multi-disability organization
- Provides sports and recreation services to youth and adults with disabilities
- 100 community-based chapters in 38 states
- Serving over 60,000 people annually
- A community based member of the U.S. Olympic Committee

Disabled Sports USA Programs

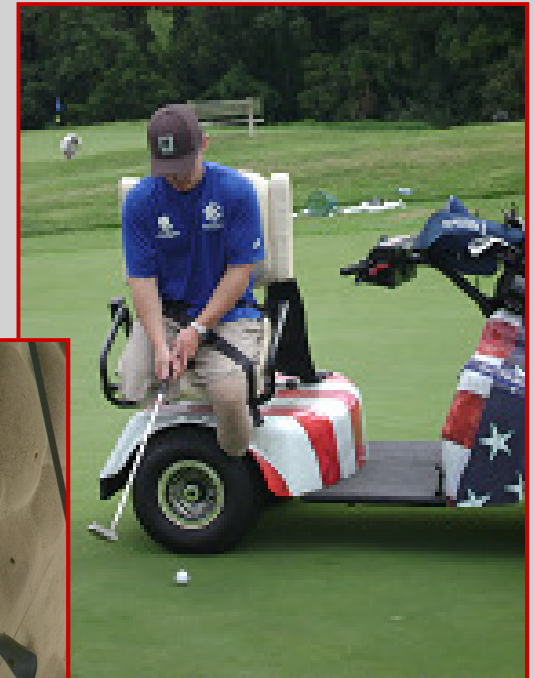


- Ski Spectacular
- Nationwide SkiTour Series
- Nationwide SummerFest Series
- Youth Sport Mentoring
- Inclusion Program
- Chapter Services: Insurance, Training, Events
- ROAM Program
- Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project

Creating the Model – Ingredients to a Successful Experience



- Accessibility
- Instruction
- Adaptive Equipment





**WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROJECT**

Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project



Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project



- Established in 2003 in partnership with Wounded Warrior Project and DS/USA chapters
 - To date, served over 2500 severely wounded warriors and family
- Year round sports
- Programs offered nationwide as sports rehabilitation at major military hospitals through the nation including:
 - Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC)
 - Bethesda Naval Medical Center
- Over 80 teaching events each year
- Over 20 sports offered
 - Golf, kayaking, rock climbing, swimming, cycling in Maryland
- Free of cost for transportation, lodging, meals, adaptive equipment, and instruction

“These patients change and transform in the eight days they are with Disabled Sports USA ... in ways they did not change in six months of hospitalization. It's reintegration of who they once were.”

-- Susan Feighery, Lead
Recreation Therapist for VA
Palo Alto Health Care System





“When my husband lost his leg in the war, he lost the ‘light in his eyes’. The hospital healed John’s physical injury but Disabled Sports USA healed the family. This is more than rehabilitation for the soldier; you put the entire family back together again. Thank you for giving me my husband back!” - Mollie Borders, wife of Army SSG John Borders

Position on Sligo Creek Golf Course



- Base decision on overall profitability & use of tax payer funds
- Do not base decision on serving Veterans
 1. Not enough numbers to justify keeping open an entire course
 2. If service is provided free of charge – no supporting income
 3. Several golf courses in Maryland/DC area already serve Veterans at free or reduced rates

Veterans Statistics



- 35,555 total wounded from OEF/OIF
 - (U.S. Dept. of Defense, Nov. 2009)
- 80% return to serve in their unit
 - (Committee on Veteran's Affairs, US House of Representatives)
- Less than 10% incur permanent, life changing injuries
 - (Reports from Hospitals)
- 1600 OEF/OIF Veterans in Maryland
 - (Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs, 2008)
- 500 OEF/OIF Veterans live in Montgomery, Princes George's, and Howard Counties
 - (Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs, 2008)

Golf Statistics



- 10% of US Population plays golf
 - (Journal/Sentinel of Milwaukee, WI)
- Of 500 Veterans living in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Howard Counties
 - (Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs, 2008)
- If 10% play golf (National Average) only 50 golfers from this population

Local Programming



- DS/USA Served 250 Wounded Warriors from Bethesda/Walter Reed last year
- 40 regularly attended golf clinics
- Several local golf courses open to Veterans:

Veterans play for free/reduced rate:

- Olney Golf Park
- Manor CC
- Blue Marsh Golf Course
- Whiskey Creek
- Argyle CC
- Montgomery CC
- Kenwood CC
- Potomac Ridge Golf Course

Military Gold Courses:

- Andrews Air Force Base
- Ft. Meade (18 Holes, Accessible Golf Cart, \$25)
- Ft. McNair
- Armed Forces Retirement Home
- Raspberry Golf Academy at Ft. Belvoir

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