

River City Daily

Newsletter of the 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America

A GUIDE TO GETTING TO RICHMOND

Our goal is to make your travel to Richmond as smooth as possible. With that in mind, we have a few tips for your trip preparation and arrival:

- Book your flight early! Most of the planes flying into Richmond International Airport tend to be regional jets—and therefore, smaller.
- Use color-coded baggage tags provided in your welcome packet to identify your luggage and equipment as part of the 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games. These color-coded tags are critical to getting your items to the right place.
- Each airline provides a way for you to identify yourself as a special service requested customer, take advantage of this option so the necessary personnel can be on hand to help.
- Be sure you mark or tag all removable parts of your wheelchair with your name.
- Pack a carry on with essentials, including all medications. Bags won't get to the hotels until four to six hours after you arrive.
- Keep your cushions, backpacks, etc. with you on the plane.

VENUE UPDATE

Venues In, Around Richmond Ready to Roll Out Welcome Mat

Venues throughout the city are heading into the homestretch as they prepare to roll out the welcome mat for the more than 500 athletes set to descend upon Richmond June 25-30 for the 32nd annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Like the local co-organizers Richmond VAMC and the Virginia Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, many people throughout the city playing host to the Games are eager to welcome athletes, coaches, family members, friends and other guests. "We appreciate



At the Airport

Someone will meet you at your arrival gate and escort you to the hospitality area, located on Level 2- Ticketing and Gates area. Greeters wearing khaki-colored

"NVWG 2012" aprons will be on hand to provide information, water and snacks.

Getting to Your Hotel

Shuttle service to the Hilton Garden Inn and Crowne Plaza and Omni Hotels will be available from the Level 2 - Ticketing and Gates area starting June 24 from 6 a.m. through midnight. Volunteers will be on hand to assist you with boarding. If you arrive *before or after this time window*, you will need to make your own arrangements. UPS will deliver luggage from the airport to the hotels. Once you arrive at your hotel, contact the luggage holding area and the hotel staff will bring your bags to your room.

UPS hotline for missing bags: June 24 and July 1 Only (804) 236-4004 or (804) 222-7017; June 25-30 (804) 743-8425.



Virginia Mid-Atlantic Chapter of PVA

the opportunity to be involved," said Michael Meyers, general manager of the Greater
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Announcements

Registration

Before the Games, all Athletes and participants must have their VA eligibility, equipment and travel information confirmed and submitted to PVA. The participants whose information is incomplete will receive an email or phone call communication from the Registration Committee to confirm and update their information.

It's vital that you provide all of your specific travel information, including incoming and outgoing flight details, to PVA and the registration committee. This will help ensure that travel assistance between the airport and hotels goes smoothly.

If you have questions, contact Marlene Pratt or Kristin Windon at (804) 675-5000 and (804) 675-5002, respectively or via email at:

Marlene.Pratt@va.gov or Kristin.Windon@va.gov.

Registration and early classification will take place in Hall A Lobby of the Greater Richmond Convention Center.



Registration at last years Games

Early Classification

Only for Air Guns and Medical
Sunday, June 24 | 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Note: This is not registration.*

Athlete/Coach Registration

Monday, June 25 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Late Athlete/Coach Registration Command Center

Tuesday, June 26 | 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Closing Ceremonies and Banquet Tickets

Everyone must have a ticket to attend these events, which begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 30, in the convention center's Hall A. **How to get your tickets:** Coaches will need to bring the names of their athletes attending the banquet—and of any guests and coaches buying tickets—to individual meetings with PVA's Stacy Kulig. Guest tickets cost \$25; coaches \$15. Athletes' tickets are free.

The Closing Banquet Ticket office will be located at The Richmond Marriott, Salon A & B. Tickets are available for purchase - Tuesday, June 26, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At that time, Kulig will assign tables and hand out banquet tickets.



SPECIALTY CHAIRS

Specialty Chairs used during the events will be stored in Section "C" at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Hours of Operation - Check-in or Check-out

**Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

At the conclusion of the last event, the specialty chairs will be checked for complete departure information on the tag.

Sunday, June 24

Exhibition Event: Boccia



Boccia is one of the fastest growing sports in the Paralympics, and we are excited to introduce it as our new exhibition event this year at the NVWG. Athletes will test their coordination, accuracy and concentration as they compete to get their target ball closest to the jack. The event will be held in the Convention Center on Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. All athletes are encouraged to come participate whether

they are pre-registered or not. You won't want to miss this exclusive opportunity to participate in a sport loved by athletes across the world!

For a full description of event rules and details, please visit www.pva.org.

We are Rocking the Block!!

Wednesday, June 27, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Science Museum of Virginia

Good ole' Fashion Southern BBQ

Dancing/Bands/Caricature Artist

Free admission to the Museum

HANDCYCLE TUNE-UP

(e.g., air in tires, shifting lessons)

Thursday, June 28

from 1-4 p.m.

Location: Halls C, and D.



KICK-OFF Games to Begin at State Capitol



To launch the 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games, athletes from last year's Games will demonstrate their skill and determination on the grounds on the Virginia State Capitol Monday, June 25 starting at 11 a.m.

Governor Bob McDonnell will give opening remarks and longtime Richmond radio and TV personality Bill Bevins will serve as master of ceremonies.

In the slalom event, athletes navigate an obstacle course, displaying their ability to balance and tackle doorways, ramps, stairs and other challenges.

The objective: to make it through the course in the quickest time possible with the fewest mistakes. Incredible and unbelievable are words often used to describe wheelchair slalom. Come experience the excitement and cheer on the Veterans!

Buses will run from the Richmond Convention Center to the Capitol for the event.

*Gwendolyn Matthews, Karmen Purdel,
Games Kick-off Co-Chairs*

Opening Ceremonies

PARADE OF ATHLETES LINE-UP:

4:30 p.m.

Monday, June 25

Convention Center, Back of Exhibit Hall D

VENUE UPDATE, *continued*

Richmond Convention Center, where most of the week's events will take place. "Staff at the GRCC has been working for over a year on logistics for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Everyone involved have been great partners. We are proud that the Greater Richmond Convention Center will be an anchor venue for the Games and that accessibility has not been an obstacle as the facility is a first-class venue." Meyers said GRCC enjoys hosting events like the Wheelchair Games that garners so much community support.

For Sports Backers Stadium, the hosts for the track events and Kids Day, the Games represent a "great way to celebrate

physical activity while honoring our country's Veterans at the same time," said Jon Lugbill, Sports Backers executive director. Lugbill said in addition to hosting events, Sports Backers' entire staff is planning to volunteer at the Wheelchair Games during the week.

The newly opened Greater Richmond Aquatics Partnership, site of the swimming events, is "delighted to host the National Veterans Wheelchair Games at the Collegiate School Aquatics Center," said Adam Kennedy, GRAP executive director. "Having an event of this caliber at Richmond's newest state-of-the-art athletic venue could not be a better fit. 'Welcome and good luck to all the visitors and competitors of the Games.'"

Hotel Details

Before you arrive be sure to make requests for bathroom door removal, handheld showerheads and bed-height adjustments at registration so the hotels can prepare your room accordingly.

Crowne Plaza

555 East Canal St.
Richmond, VA
23219
(804) 788-0900

All rooms have mini refrigerators. Medical refrigerators cost \$22 per day. There is a one-time fee of \$25 for rollaway beds; quantities are limited. Microwaves are in some rooms (cannot guarantee a room with a microwave). Parking -- \$14/day for valet; \$10/day for self parking. Free WIFI in rooms.



Hilton Garden Inn

501 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219.
(804) 344-4300

All rooms have complimentary mini-refrigerators and microwaves. There is a one-time \$20 fee for rollaway beds. Limit is one per room; quantities are limited. \$3/day for use of the room safe. Parking -- \$21/day valet only (7'-8" clearance for garage). Limited parking for high-top vans. No charge for WIFI, refrigerator or microwave.



Omni Richmond

100 South
12th St.
Richmond,
VA 23219
(804)
344-7000

Approximately
20 mini
refrigera-

tors available; \$20 per day charge. Rollaway beds available at \$20/night (will only fit in King or Queen rooms). Parking -- \$20/day valet and \$21/day self parking (height of vehicle limited to 6'-5"). Wireless internet-\$9.95/night.

The hotels will allow you to store air guns in locked cases in your room. The hotels recommend that luggage be delivered rooms by hotel staff.

DISCOVER THE RIVER CITY

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (804) 340-1400 www.vmfa.state.va.us	Children's Museum of Richmond (804) 474-2667 www.c-mor.org	Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (804) 262-9887 www.lewisginter.org
Science Museum of Virginia (804) 864-1400 www.smv.org	Richmond Riverfront (804) 788-6466 www.richmondriverfront.com	Carytown www.carytownrva.com
Virginia State Capitol (804) 698-1788 http://virginiacapitol.gov	King's Dominion (804) 876-5000 www.kingsdominion.com	Metro Richmond Zoo (804) 739-5666 www.metrorichmondzoo

Richmond Games on the Web



www.wheelchairgames.va.gov



www.pva.org/nvwwg



www.va.gov/adaptivesports/



<http://twitter.com/#!/VAAdaptiveSport>

<http://twitter.com/#!/PVA1946>