

River City Daily

Newsletter of the 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games



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

Richmond VAMC Set to Host 32nd Wheelchair Games

Richmond VAMC community, I can hardly hold my excitement. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games return to Richmond June 25-30, 2012.

The Games, a joint venture between VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, began 31 years ago right here on the campus of the Richmond VA Medical Center with 74 Veterans from 14 states. While that was a commendable start for an inaugural event, the Games have made great strides in the intervening years. This year we expect to host nearly 600 wheelchair athletes from across the nation, Puerto Rico and Great Britain, making the 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games the largest wheelchair sporting event in the world.

The Wheelchair Games will showcase 17 medal events and put the courage and tenacity of Veterans with disabilities on display for all to see and applaud. All events are open to the public; admission is free.

The Games will showcase our city as well, from the venues where the athletes will compete, to the attractions in and around Richmond where the visiting athletes, coaches, event organizers and their families and friends spend their leisure time.

This is no small undertaking. The weeklong event will require close

to 1,000 hotel rooms, partnership between the Richmond VAMC extended family and our neighboring communities, and more than 3,000 volunteers to ensure success.

Fortunately, Team Richmond VAMC has proven time and again that we view challenges as opportunities to excel and I am confident that we will make this summer's Wheelchair Games the best ever. We are very proud to host the Games and excited to share Richmond's hospitality with athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff.

Alison Faulk
Richmond VAMC
Local Organizing
Committee Chair



Let The Games Continue
★ WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Richmond

Learn more at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov

Richmond, Virginia

January, 2012



2012 Medal Events

- Air Guns
- Track & Field
- Quad Rugby
- Weightlifting
- Archery
- Motorized Wheelchair Rally
- Softball
- Slalom
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Nine-ball
- Swimming
- Handcycling
- Power Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Trapshooting

A few fast facts about the Games:

- More than 550 Veterans with disabilities compete each year, making the National Veterans Wheelchair Games the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America team up to present this weeklong event... **here in Richmond!**
- Participants compete in a variety of events such as rugby, archery, table tennis and basketball.
- Athletes attend from nearly every state in the nation, Puerto Rico and Great Britain.
- The slogan for the 32nd Games—*Let the Games Continue... Where It All Began*, celebrates Richmond's establishment of the first Games in 1981.
- Approximately one in four athletes at the Games is new to organized wheelchair sports.
- The Games, which showcase 17 medal events in all, are free and open to the public.

Richmond Games on the Web



www.facebook.com/RichmondVAMC



twitter.com/RichmondVAMC



www.wheelchairgames.va.gov



www.richmond.va.gov/nvwg



www.pva.org/nvwg



Calling All

VOLUNTEERS

Tomeka “Mee Mee” Graham, Janell Giles, and Janet Langhorne are ready to tell you about the volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers will play a critical role in the 2012 Games. We need about 3,000 volunteers to make the National Veterans Wheelchair Games a success.

Extra help is needed to assist with every aspect of the Games — from helping athletes take aim to passing out water during rugby matches. Volunteer opportunities include a myriad of activities such as assisting with athletic event coordination, publicity and signage, serving meals, keeping athletes cool and hydrated, and escorting Veterans, athletes and visitors.

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering should contact Janet Langhorne, volunteer coordinator, at (804) 675-5135 or fill out an online volunteer application at: www.richmond.va.gov/docs/newwheelchairvolunteerapp.pdf

For more information about the Games in general visit <http://www.richmond.va.gov/nvwg/> or call Alison Faulk, 32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games Local Chairperson at 804.675.5208; email: alison.faulk@va.gov.