



# 22nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

## Snowmass Village, Colorado

### March 30—April 4, 2008

#### *Miracles on a Mountainside*

During a week of rehabilitation and fun, the long-established National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic presents an excellent opportunity for media coverage about the veterans, the skiing and the event itself. These are heroic stories of courage and determination, told by first-time participants recently injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as veterans of the Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea and World War II, all determined to conquer their disabilities on the Rocky Mountain slopes.



The 22nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promotes rehabilitation by instructing disabled veterans in adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing and introducing them to other adaptive activities and sports such as scuba diving, snowboarding, sled hockey and snowmobiling. At the Clinic, veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations, visual impairments and neurological challenges all take to the slopes, using state-of-the-art adaptive ski equipment. The smiles on their faces tell the story best as they come barreling down the mountain for the first time. This is the third year the Clinic has offered a special race training and development program that encourages participants to develop their skills to an elite level. The ultimate goal is world class



ski competition, which many participants who started skiing at the Clinic have accomplished.

The final day is "Race Day," when all veterans are awarded medals. Come see this extraordinary event in Snowmass Village, Colorado this April. Contact Jenny Tankersley Ballou, VA National Public Affairs Coordinator for the Clinic at (757) 728-3450; or [jenny.tankersley@va.gov](mailto:jenny.tankersley@va.gov). Or, visit the Web site for continuing updates at [www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov](http://www.wintersportsclinic.va.gov).

#### Story Ideas:

##### Skiing

- ⚡ First Time Skiers
- ⚡ World Class Skiers
- ⚡ Ski Instructors for the Disabled
- ⚡ Cross Country and Downhill Skiing
- ⚡ Disabled Snowboarding
- ⚡ Top Mono-skiers
- ⚡ Top Blind Skiers

##### Health

- ⚡ The impetus from which other local, state and national ski clinics for veterans have emerged
- ⚡ Health Benefits of Winter Sports
- ⚡ Recently Injured Veterans Skiing for Rehabilitation
- ⚡ Other Adaptive Activities:
  - Rock Climbing, Snowmobiling, Scuba Diving, Shooting Sports, Curling, Goal Ball, Self Defense
- ⚡ Innovations in Disabled Ski/Adaptive Equipment
- ⚡ Prosthetic Advances for Amputee Skiers

##### Military

- ⚡ Recently Injured Veterans from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom
- ⚡ Women Veterans
- ⚡ WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans
- ⚡ Military Heroes at the Clinic
- ⚡ Camaraderie among those with similar injuries and experiences

##### Features/Human Interest

- ⚡ Race Day Activities
- ⚡ Race Training and Development Program
- ⚡ 22nd Annual Clinic: Innovations
- ⚡ Ceremonies and Special Events
- ⚡ Medal Presentations
- ⚡ Educational and Social Activities
- ⚡ Celebrity Visitors
- ⚡ Qualifying for the Paralympics
- ⚡ Development of Lasting Friendships