**Dear Athletes and Coaches:**

The Grand Junction VA Medical Center invites you to participate in the 2013 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. This annual event promotes rehabilitation by instructing physically challenged veterans in adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing and will provide an introduction to other adaptive activities and sports.

**What:**

Adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding. Alternate activities and clinics will offer a variety of exciting adaptive activities.

**When:**

March 31–April 5, 2013. **Registration will take place Sunday, March 31, 2013** at the Snowmass Village Conference Center. **Closing ceremonies will be held Friday evening, April 5, 2013.**

**Where:**

***Snowmass Village at Aspen***

Nestled in the majestic peaks of the Rocky Mountains, Snowmass Village is a friendly, cozy mountain town. It is located eight miles from the internationally cosmopolitan town of Aspen. The base elevation is 8,104 feet and the summit elevation is 12,510 feet. For more information, please visit the Snowmass Village website at www.snowmassvillage.com.

**Who:**

Participation is open to male and female military service veterans with qualifying disabilities such as spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputation, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities. Veterans who currently have inpatient or outpatient status at a VA medical facility will have first priority. All disabilities are subject to review by the Winter Sports Clinic medical director and program director. **Their decisions are final.**

**Here are a few examples of common diagnoses that do not usually qualify for the clinic:**

Low back pain (even if they've had surgery), fibromyalgia, degenerative joint disease/osteoarthritis and chronic pain. Degree of service-connectedness, whether in general or specifically related to an injury, does not influence qualification for the clinic. If you have any specific questions about whether or not a disability may qualify a participant for the clinic please contact Dr. Hunter directly.

**Special note for visually impaired participants:**

All visually impaired/blind participants are expected to possess good mobility and independent living skills. You will be expected to join in on all scheduled events. Many visually impaired/blind veterans have participated in past winter sports clinics—their testimony to its success and benefits are well known. We look forward to having you as a participant, experiencing the unique and exciting challenges of this special event.

**How:**

Eligible veterans can apply by completing the enclosed application. If your application is not filled out completely and properly signed, your registration will not be accepted and will be sent back to you. Your application will then need to be resubmitted. **All applications and forms must be mailed to:**

**Teresa Parks**
**National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic**
**VAMC (WSC)**
**2121 North Avenue**
**Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**Note: Registration deadline is November 30, 2012.** Only applications received by mail will be accepted. Postmarks later than December 15, 2012, **will not be accepted**.

Questions: Contact Teresa Parks, 970-263-5040
E-mail: Teresa.Parks@va.gov

**Activities:**

The five day clinic will consist of ski lessons, training, a challenge race, adaptive sports workshops, educational classes, plus sponsored and self-directed alternate activities. Qualified adaptive ski instructors will provide ski instruction.

**Medical Care:**

Each participant must have a physician complete and sign the enclosed General Medical/Physical Exam form. **If the General Medical/Physical Exam form is not filled out completely and properly signed, your registration will not be accepted and will be sent back to you. There will not be any exceptions to this policy.** ***In addition to these forms there is additional medical information that is required.***

**Supportive Health Care Needs:**

Medical care supervision will be provided throughout the event. Support personnel must accompany all participants requiring daily supportive care or assistance in activities of daily living. Nursing care for ADLs such as bathing, showering, and catheter care **is not planned**.

***We recommend that if you anticipate needing personal equipment or supplies such as catheters, leg bags, irrigating solutions, etc., plan to bring these items with you, or arrange for them through a local pharmacy.***

**Cost – Participants:**

Participants are responsible for their room charges and incidentals and airfare and/or transportation costs to the event. Hotels will **require** cash or a credit card at check-in for incidentals. Ground transportation will be provided by the Grand Junction VA Medical Center and Village properties. There will be an $10.00 portage fee charged to your room. Additional transportation that is not related to the event will be the responsibility of the participant. Ski instruction, ski equipment, lift tickets, meals and all other related clinic activities and functions will be free of charge. ***To avoid confusion and possible loss of funds, please do not make any travel or lodging reservations until you have received the letter notifying you of your accepted clinic registration.***

**Cost – Coaches, Family, Friends and Support Personnel:**

Coaches, family, friends and support personnel are responsible for their room charges, the cost of all transportation not included in the event, meals, lift tickets and ski equipment rentals. Coaches providing aid to their participants will be permitted to room in the Wildwood Snowmass or The Westin Resort if absolutely necessary. ***To avoid confusion and possible loss of funds, please do not make any travel or lodging reservations until you have received the letter notifying you of your accepted clinic registration.***

**Lodging – Participants:**

Participants' lodging is planned at The Westin Resort (for wheelchair athletes only), or the Wildwood Snowmass. Lodging information will be sent to you upon acceptance.

**Special Note to Coaches:**

Snowmass Village will not accept government purchase orders. Please be sure to make your payment arrangements to avoid any last minute confusion.

**Travel:**

Snowmass Village is located just eight miles from Aspen's Sardy Field, the most convenient ski resort airport in the United States. It is serviced by three major airlines.

**Meal Plan:**

**Participants receive all meals free of charge.** Coaches, family, friends and support personnel are responsible for the cost of their meals. Three meal plans are available for purchase and can be purchased in advance. More information regarding meal plans will be sent in the acceptance package.

**Please Remember:**

- Bring with you **all necessary medications** that you will require;
- Mail your completed application and forms no later than **November 30, 2012**.
- **Please double check to make sure you have all the medical information the application requires in addition to the two medical pages enclosed.**

**Please Note:** After you have been accepted to the 2013 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, you will receive information that will enable you to make room and airline reservations.