

National Veterans Golden Age Games Application Packet - Table of Contents

Description	Page
Welcome Packet	
Welcome from VA Western New York Healthcare System Medical Center Director	2
Master Schedule	3
General Information	4-7
Athlete Forms – All forms below <u>MUST</u> be completely filled out and submitted in order to compete	
Athlete Registration Checklist – Form 926a	8
Athlete Application – Form 926b	9
Event Selection – Form 926b	10
Consent for Use of Picture and/or Voice - Form 10-3203	11
Waiver and Release of Liability – Form 926d	12
Medical Clearance Instructions for Athletes	13
Medical Form – 926e	14-15
Non-Athlete Forms	
Non-Athlete Registration Checklist – Form 926g	16
Non-Athlete Application – Form 926h	17
Volunteer/Support Staff Registration	
Volunteer/Support Staff Registration – Form 926j	18-20



October 15, 2012

Dear 2013 National Golden Age Games Applicant:

On behalf of VA Western New York Healthcare System and VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York, it is my honor and pleasure to invite you to participate in the 27th National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG) taking place in Buffalo, New York, May 30 – June 4, 2012.

We are looking forward to hosting this spectacular event. While being a guest in our city, you can enjoy attractions such as The Buffalo Zoo, Buffalo City Hall, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park, Albright-Knox Art Gallery and nearby Niagara Falls. This event is made possible by our 2013 NVGAG sponsors; the Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Canteen Service, whose generosity allows us to provide this adaptive sports program to Veterans 55 years of age and older.

Enclosed please find the 2013 NVGAG registration packet. You may wish to have your local VA Recreation Therapy staff or coach help you complete the application to ensure your application includes all necessary information for you to compete.

Whether this is your first National Veterans Golden Age Games or you are an annual competitor, we look forward to welcoming you and all of our "Warriors on the Waterfront" at the 27th National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Sincerely,


BRIAN C. STILLER
Medical Center Director

ATHLETE MASTER SCHEDULE – 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games - Buffalo, NY

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

All Day Arrival of Athletes, Coaches, Staff Convention Center

Thursday, May 30, 2013

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration/Check-in Convention Center (Lobby & Ballroom)
 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Coaches Meeting Convention Center (105)
 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Opening Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)

Friday, May 31, 2013

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Checkers Convention Center (101 AB)
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Golf Audubon Golf Course
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visually Impaired Golf Audubon Golf Course
 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. Alternate Activities Niagara Fall and Made in America Store/Naval Base
 Noon – 5 p.m. Shuffleboard Convention Center (North Hall)
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Twitter 101 Convention Center (TBA)

Saturday, June 1, 2013

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Shuffleboard Convention Center (North)
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Croquet Nichols High School
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Field Events – Shot Put/Discus/Javelin Erie Community College South
 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Alternate Activities Niagara Falls and Made in America Store/Naval Base
 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Twitter 101 Convention Center (TBA)
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Medal Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)
 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. VCS Bingo Adam's Mark Hotel

Sunday, June 2, 2013

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dominoes Convention Center (101AB)
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. 9-ball Pocketeers
 Noon – 6 p.m. Horseshoes LaSalle Park
 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. Alternate Activities Niagara Falls and Made in America Store/Naval Base
 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Worship Service Convention Center (TBA)
 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Mass Our Lady of Victory Basilica
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Swimming Erie Community College
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Medal Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)

Monday, June 3, 2013

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bowling Transit Lanes
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Air Rifle Convention Center (North Hall)
 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Horseshoes LaSalle Park
 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. Alternate Activities Niagara Falls and Made in America Store/Naval Base
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Sled Hockey TBA
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Sled Hockey TBA
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Medal Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cycling Niagara Falls Air Force Base
 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Table Tennis Convention Center (North Hall)
 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Sled Hockey TBA
 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. Alternate Activities Niagara Falls and Made in America Store/Naval Base
 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Medal Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)
 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Closing Ceremony Convention Center (South Hall)

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

All Day Departures

General Information

WHO MUST REGISTER: All athletes, coaches, support staff and traveling volunteers must register. Each individual registering must complete a separate registration form.

ELIGIBILITY: All Veterans, ages 55 or older, who currently receive inpatient or outpatient care from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Completed registration packets must be postmarked on or before:

February 28, 2013

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED PACKETS TO:

Registration Committee 528-141
2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games
VA Western New York Healthcare System
3495 Bailey Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

If your packet is incomplete, you will be contacted to re-submit missing documents, which will delay your registration. Please enlist the help of your coaches before mailing your packet.

NO LATE REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE ACCEPTED

EVENTS: All athletes must enter at least **two**, but no more than **four** events, excluding exhibition events. Complete the Event Selection Form 926b in the registration packet. Events include cycling, bowling, checkers, croquet, dominoes, golf, horseshoes, 9-Ball, shot put, discus, javelin, air rifle, shuffleboard, table tennis and swimming.

EVENT RULES: Event rules are available on the Internet at:
www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov

CLASSIFICATION: All age classifications will be determined by the athlete's age as of **May 31, 2013**. There are seven age classifications:

55-59 60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79 80-84 85+

Athletes will compete by gender in the following events: **cycling, bowling, horseshoes, shot put, discus, javelin and swimming.**

General Information (Continued)

CLASSIFICATION: Non-ambulatory Athletes will have a separate division in the following events:

Table Tennis	Swimming	Horseshoes
Nine-Ball	Bowling	Shot Put
Shuffleboard	Discus	Javelin

Visually impaired Athletes will have a separate division in the following events:

Bowling	Horseshoes	Shuffleboard	Golf
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AIR TRAVEL: Athletes should plan to arrive and depart from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport, approximately 20 minutes from the hotel.

Several of the major airlines are no longer providing oxygen in-flight. Only approved Personal Oxygen Concentrators (POC) will be allowed and must be provided by the traveler. It is likely that all airlines will be implementing this policy.

It is essential that when making air transport plans this change be taken into consideration and appropriate action taken to ensure no issues at time of travel.

NOTE: Eligible Veterans may qualify for a POC at VA expense through Prosthetics Service with appropriate medical justification. Please contact your local VA to determine eligibility.

WHEELCHAIR TRAVEL: It is often helpful when traveling with a wheelchair or scooter to call the airline in advance and inform them of your needs. Let them know if you will need an aisle chair, arm rest removed or require harness belt or chest strap. Provide written equipment handling instructions.

TRANSPORTATION: The Games' organizers will provide transportation for arrivals on **Wednesday, May 29, 2013** between the airport and hotel. Representatives of the Games will greet you at the airport, train station and bus terminal. Transportation for all National Veterans Golden Age Games sponsored events and activities will also be provided from the hotel. If traveling by air, check with your local air terminal for the latest update on Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requirements regarding carry-on items. Athletes traveling with oxygen will need to make arrangements with the airlines regarding the transport of oxygen. Coordination of oxygen services are the responsibility of the athlete. Transportation will be provided from the hotel to the airport for departures on **Wednesday, June 5, 2013**.

LODGING: The 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games will be held in downtown Buffalo, New York. After receipt of your completed registration packet, you will receive a letter of confirmation with further instructions for making hotel reservations. A base rate of \$100.00 plus 13.75% taxes per night and round trip portage fees of \$9.00 has been negotiated for our host hotels. **You will not be able to make hotel reservations prior to the receipt of your letter of confirmation.**

General Information (Continued)

- MEALS:** Meal cards beginning with breakfast on Friday, May 31, 2013 through dinner on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 will be furnished at no cost to all 2013 NVGAG Veteran athletes.
- MEDICAL:** Medical assistance will be provided 24 hours a day as part of the 2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Emergency medical treatment will be available at the host hotel. First aid and patient stabilization will be provided at the events and activities. Ambulances will be called if emergency care is needed. **Medical assistance is not intended for pre-existing conditions.** Athletes must bring with them enough medication and medical supplies to last throughout the Games. **There are no provisions for providing replacement medications and medical supplies.**
- WEATHER:** The average temperature for the months of May and June in Buffalo is usually 55-82°F with occasional showers. Please bring clothing appropriate for all types of weather. Items to consider bringing include a jacket, umbrella, sweater, hat, swimsuit, sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher recommended), insect repellent, sunglasses and appropriate clothing for warm temperatures.
- CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION:** Once your completed application has been received and accepted by the 2013 Games office, a letter of confirmation will be sent to you. Included with the confirmation letter will be a form for you to complete regarding your travel itinerary. The travel itinerary form must be returned by **April 15, 2013.**
- WALL OF HEROES:** The National Veterans Golden Age Games traditional "Wall of Heroes" will continue at the Games in Buffalo, NY. Please send two photographs with your registration packet. We would like our presentation to depict: "Then and Now". Photos should include a current photograph and a photo from the past, preferably in military uniform. Please note that Wall of Heroes photographs will be returned in your registration packet.
- MISCELLANEOUS:** Arrival date is Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Registration for the Games will be on Thursday, May 30, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each athlete will be assigned a specific time for registration.
- The opening ceremony** begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2013.
- Alternate Activities** information will be provided in your confirmation packet.

General Information (Continued)

For more information, contact the 27th NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES Office:

VA Western New York Healthcare System
Registration Committee 528-141
2013 National Veterans Golden Age Games
3495 Bailey Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

Email:

NationalVeteransGoldenAgeGames2013@va.gov

Telephone toll-free:

1-855-852-1411

Local Telephone number:

716-862-6502