We Miss You!

What a strange year it’s been! The AdVenture program was well on the way of having the highest percentage of participant visits and most programs offered when the nation came to a screeching halt in mid-March 2020 due to COVID-19. After several months in lockdown, we were able to offer limited programming for a few months starting back up in July and ending when the next huge surge hit in late November. This past year we learned how to safely operate programs during a pandemic, technical jargon associated with COVID—19, that car batteries die when no one drives them for five months, that Mondays are harder during a Pandemic, but mostly we learned how much we miss our AdVenture family. It just hasn’t been the same without all of you or our participants.

We continue to be extremely proud of the AdVenture program and the difference it makes for the participants. We hope to someday soon be able to offer programs back at full capacity. We appreciate all of the support we’ve received from you and participants’ families this past year. We hope to see you soon.

In health and gratitude,
Emily Kovarik & Sonya Buchholz
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

- A total of $3,026 was donated to the AdVenture program in 2020. Unfortunately, due to safety concerns with COVID-19, our two main fundraisers, the ChairHoops Wheelchair Basketball tournament and the Curt Recla Moonlight Golf Tournament, were cancelled.
  * Idaho Power and their employees donated $543 to the scholarship program,
  * $1,450 was donated by individuals,
  * $700 was donated to the Idaho Youth Adaptive Sports Camp (this money will be used when the camp is safe enough to run, hopefully in June of 2021),
  * $333 was donated by a doctor who was a medical expert in a trial. For the past 20+ years this doctor has donated money he receives from being a medical expert in court cases to our program and the Idaho Youth Adaptive Sports Camp.

- In 2020, $12,150 was spent on scholarships for adults with disabilities. Over the years, this program has helped hundreds of participants with disabilities. The program is so important because many people who receive a scholarship, would not be able to participate in these programs without the help of their scholarship.
- AdVenture offered a Disability Awareness Training to 90 2nd grade students at Barbara Morgan STEM academy. The teachers asked us to present to their classes on adaptive equipment.
- Before the Pandemic hit, AdVenture was able to host the yearly “Holiday Dance” which takes place during the school day and is a dance for teens with disabilities from Boise and West Ada School Districts. This year, there was an all time high of 108 teens and 39 teachers and staff in attendance.

“Your programs for people with disabilities have been a life saver for so many participants, parents and guardians. I hate to see things put on hold again (due to the pandemic), but it is the wisest, if also the most difficult, decision. We are happy to wait things out until better days appear. “

- Parent of an AdVenture Participant

AdVenture Receives Grant from the Neilsen Foundation

During the Fall of 2020, the AdVenture program was awarded a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation which will enable the program to purchase 6-8 brand new rugby wheelchairs. AdVenture has been offering wheelchair rugby since 2012. When the program began in 2012, we were able to purchase three brand new rugby wheelchairs but because of limited funding, the other nine chairs were purchased second (or third) hand. Our rugby wheelchairs are now 8-14+ years old and are wearing out due to repeated years of use. The sport of wheelchair rugby is a fast paced and hard hitting sport. Due to the nature of the program, rugby equipment endures a lot of abuse and frequently requires repairs and welding. The more the chairs need to be welded, the weaker the chairs become. On average, a new rugby wheelchair can cost $7,000/chair.

These new chairs will now be able to be used by Boise’s own competitive wheelchair rugby team, the Boise Bombers as they partner with AdVenture. The chairs will also be used by youth involved with the Idaho Youth Adaptive Sports Camp, by rehabilitation specialists when they work with patients and by members of the public so they can play alongside their friends.

In the past, the AdVenture program and the Boise Bomber Wheelchair Rugby team co-hosted a food and toy drive during the holiday season. The food drive typically brings in more than 250 pounds of food for the Boise Rescue Mission and the toy drive brings in numerous boxes of toys for the Toys for Tots program. We look forward to the return of these events in the future.
THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM EXPANDS TO ADVENTURE

As mentioned, at the start of the fiscal year, AdVenture was setting records with the most visits and we were on track to offer a record number of programs. Then in March, the Pandemic stopped programming altogether until the 2nd week in July. At that time, in order to follow COVID-19 safety precautions all classes were allowed a maximum of eight participants, everyone spaced 6 feet apart, pre-screening questions occurred for each participant, transportation was not allowed and staff and all participants wore a mask at all times. We were so thrilled to see participants again that these new rules seemed minor so that we could be back to programming. We were able to program this way until late November when everything was cancelled again due to increasing COVID-19 cases. However, this time we were able to offer a few classes online (yoga, fitness and dance). We look forward to the day when we can safely operate in-person programs at full capacity.

“My son has really loved this program. He has been so lonely and looks forward all week to the Friday Night Social Club. We appreciate everything you and your staff are doing to help our residents with disabilities!! Thank you for doing a great job with this club”

- Parent of an AdVenture Participant

COVID 2020 ADVENTURE PARTICIPATION VISITS 5,456
MISSION STATEMENT
Boise Parks and Recreation’s AdVenture program is committed to providing quality sports, recreation and outdoor adventures for people of all abilities. By taking place in the most integrated setting, the AdVenture program shall promote self-confidence, wellness and physical fitness leading to a more independent lifestyle.