It has been another busy year for the AdVenture program! Post-pandemic, we are back to running programs six days a week. Aside from our one-days outings, AdVenture also offers camps, clubs and weekly classes. Weekly classes include adaptive yoga, three adaptive art classes, two adaptive fitness classes, two adaptive music classes, two adaptive dance classes as well as weekly wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball practices. Last year we offered a staggering 399 different programs that ran 270 days of the year! We could not do this without our wonderful team of part-time employees, volunteers and the participants who eagerly signed up!

Needless to say, most programs over the year were full with waiting lists and we are so grateful to our team of staff for helping us offer so many activities. Like many businesses in the country, we are experiencing staffing shortages and are grateful to those who make offering programs possible. During this difficult time of being short staffed, volunteer support has been vital to AdVenture. This past year we were lucky to have volunteers help with rafting trips, over 25 adaptive bike rides, the Holiday Party, and many more programs. BSU Service Learning Students returned to volunteering at AdVenture programs which has been extremely helpful.

Thank you to our participants, sponsors, volunteers and our team of staff for making the AdVenture program possible!

In health and gratitude,
Emily Kovarik & Sonya Buchholz
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

• A total of $4,047 was donated to the AdVenture program in 2022. Unfortunately, due to safety concerns with COVID-19, the ChairHoops Wheelchair Basketball tournament fundraiser was cancelled.
  ◦ Idaho Power and their employees donated $777 to the scholarship program
  ◦ $1,770 was donated to the Idaho Youth Adaptive Sports Camp
  ◦ $1,500 was donated by individuals

• In 2022, $10,689 was spent on scholarships for adults with disabilities to participate in recreation. Over the years, the scholarship program has helped hundreds of participants with disabilities be able to afford the different recreation programs.

• As with the rest of the Nation, AdVenture had a hard time finding new staff. Almost all of the AdVenture programs were full with a waiting list, but we could not find enough staff so that we could offer more programs.

• AdVenture had 75 Volunteers donate 1,475 hours for AdVenture in Fiscal Year 2022. Using the figure of $26.11/hour (Idaho volunteer wage average), volunteers donated $38,512 worth of services for AdVenture.

• In Fiscal Year 2022, there were 494 participants with disabilities who participated with AdVenture for a total of 7,911 visits. Also in 2022, the AdVenture program offered 399 programs. We’re happy to see these numbers continue to rise after the pandemic.

Wheelchair Basketball Grows

Wheelchair Basketball has been a staple sport with AdVenture for over 25 years. However, in the fall of 2021 the interest in the sport grew thanks to a very dedicated newcomer to Boise named Tommy Schroeder.

Recently, several people commented that they would like to take their love of wheelchair basketball to a new level and receive coaching. With Tommy Schroeder moving to Boise, their wish became a reality. Coach Tommy has been playing wheelchair basketball for over 30 years. He played competitively in the Canary Islands and Spain. Before moving to Boise, he coached wheelchair basketball at Arizona State University, for junior teams in Arizona and he coached in the Canary Islands. The new class that we were able to offer because of Coach Tommy’s expertise is called, Skills and Drills and it provides a coach who focuses on helping players learn and improve a variety of basketball skills including dribbling, passing, shooting, rules, chair movement and the list goes on. Coach Tommy works with each player to develop their skills whether they are a first-time player or an advanced player.

It’s exciting to see the growth of this sport. Tommy and his father were also the catalyst to starting the Gem State Falcons which is Idaho’s first National wheelchair basketball team.

2022 ADVENTURE PARTICIPATION VISITS 7,911
IDAHO YOUTH ADAPTIVE SPORTS CAMP

In June, 20 youth attended the 34th Annual Idaho Youth Adaptive Sports Camp. We have not been able to offer the full camp since pre-pandemic so we were thrilled to have it back. Resuming the camp after a pandemic was a feat in itself as we encountered many roadblocks including fee increases with outside vendors, reduction in sponsors and donors, nursing shortages and challenges with finding new athletes as many of the previous athletes had aged out. Even though there were challenges, thankfully, the hard work paid off. Almost half of the athletes were new to the camp and to the world of adaptive athletics. We also had the most wonderful group of volunteers who helped make the camp fun for the youth athletes they were paired with. We had two wonderful people raise money for the camp. One was in memory of her son who used to attend the camp and the other was by a 5th grade student who did not have a disability but he went door to door raising money for the camp because he liked the mission of the camp. Probably the best camp take away was the quote we received from a mother of a new camper:

“About five weeks before I signed her up for the camp she told me, as I was driving her to school, “you know Mom, little girls in wheelchairs are my species.” “Your species?” I asked slightly smiling. She gave me a serious but yet nonchalant look and replies, “Yes, they are my kind.” She smiles and we go about our lives. I had to process a little because we didn’t know anyone in a wheelchair personally, just in passing here and there. I really had no idea she felt so alone. When the camp happened, I had told her about it but she didn’t really understand. She kept saying things like “are you sure I’ll be able to do everything there?” I thought she was excited about the camp until we pulled up and saw everyone in wheelchairs. She bolted upright and gasped, “Mom!! They are all my kind!!” I get emotional every time I tell anyone. She has not been the same since. It’s given her community and support I really didn’t even know she lacked. So that’s what the sports community are doing for us!!”

Thank you to the 19 businesses helped sponsor the camp! A huge shout out goes to, Idaho Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Idaho River Sports, Old Chicago, St. Luke’s Community Health Improvement Fund, Cody Smith and Betsy Wright in memory of Michael Thomas who all were Platinum Sponsors.

33 YEARS OF ACCESSING THE WILDERNESS

This year marked the 33rd anniversary of one of our most popular programs, the Wilderness Within Reach Fly-In. We took a group of 12 Veterans with physical disabilities and a family member on this once in a lifetime experience. We stayed at the Flying B Ranch and were treated to delicious cooking, comfortable cabins and campfire entertainment. The trip included fun programs for the participants including fishing, horseback riding, and just being able to access remote Idaho.

This trip would not have been possible without the Idaho Aviation Foundation, Boundary Aviation, Cindy Fritz, Gary Pool, Joe Corlett, John Davis, McCall Aviation, MFH Aviation, Paul Hughes, Vic & Janine Jaro and the wonderful staff at the Flying B Ranch for making this an unforgettable experience. One participant summed the trip up by saying,

“This trip was amazing! From the cool flights, horseback riding, fishing, wonderful food and beautiful scenery, it was all great! Being able to spend the day fishing with my buddy (both of us are veterans) and then eating great food and listing to the creek in our cabins, this was one of the best days I have had in 10 years. Thank you so much for one of the most amazing times of my life so far. I’m forever thankful.”
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.

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Jim & Mary Slater

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Numotion
Old Idaho Penitentiary
Zoo Boise

PARTNERSHIPS
AquAbility at the Y
Boise Bike Week
Boise Bomber’s Wheelchair Rugby Team
Boise School District’s Special Education
Boise State University Service Learning Program
Challenged Athletes Foundation - Idaho
Gem State Falcons
Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
St. Luke’s Rehabilitation
The VA Medical Center

2022 DONATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP: $300+
Boise Bicycle Project
Boundary Aviation
Joe Corlett
John Davis
Cindy Fritz
Flying Resort Ranches
Pam & Randy Geile
Paul Hughes
Idaho Aviation Foundation and Idaho Aviation Community
Idaho Physical Medicine and Rehab
Idaho Power and Employees
Idaho River Sports
McCall Aviation
MHF Aviation
Gary Pool
Old Chicago
Jeff Sparks
Cody Smith
St. Luke’s Community Health Improvement Fund
Sawyer Sweet
Howard & Merridy Wallace
Betsy Wright in Memory of Michael Thomas

“Your adaptive program has such wonderful activities. My daughter enjoys each and every activity she participates in. She especially enjoys being with her friends.”
- Parent of an AdVenture Participant

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