



A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

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Adaptive Adventures Brings Combat-Injured Soldiers to Vail For Immediate Release

Adaptive Adventures - a Colorado-based Adaptive Sports nonprofit organization -- is sponsoring a group of disabled soldiers to attend the 3rd Annual Adaptive Adventures Vail All Mountain Ski Camp. Soldiers attending recently became disabled as a result of injuries sustained during tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and are currently in rehabilitation programs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC.

The soldiers will join another 17 skiers with physical disabilities at the event, and will receive expert instruction in skiing and snowboarding from both the Adaptive Adventures and Vail Ski Schools. Adaptive Adventures Ski School Director, Matt Feeney, expects the event to be a huge confidence builder for young soldiers now learning to live with disabilities. "It can help transform people's thoughts about their disabilities and reanimate them in life," said Feeney, who is also disabled after a diving accident in 1985 left him paralyzed.

The highlight of the camp will be the Friday night banquet featuring a motivational speech by Captain David Rozelle, injured in Iraq in 2003. Captain Rozelle - based out of Fort Carson in Colorado -- lost his leg in an explosion and started on the road to rehabilitation by using skiing, cycling, and triathlon for exercise and recreation. Rozelle is taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the camp in anticipation of his upcoming book release on Valentines Day, and will appear on the Today Show, Larry King Live and Rush Limbaugh before returning to duty in Iraq in March.

A unique aspect of Adaptive Adventures' ski camps is the staff, which is comprised mainly of coaches with disabilities. Feeney and Executive Director Joel Berman - who lost his leg in 1983 - founded Adaptive Adventures in 1999, and will be coaching at the camp along with Paralympians Sarah Will and Bob Emerson, who are volunteering to help make the camp rewarding for everyone. "I am looking forward to witnessing the success of the newly-injured soldiers returning from Iraq," said Emerson, who is taking a week away from his prosthetics business to help out. Also on hand will be current and former U.S. Ski Team members, including Marc Romero, Don Garcia, Monica Bascio, Chuck Miller, and others.

The expanded focus of this year's camp is made possible by a generous donation from the Boeing Foundation. The 2005 Camp -- organized by Adaptive Adventures in Evergreen and Chicago -- is also sponsored by Vail Resorts, The Roost Lodge, and Fidelity Investments.

For more information, please call Adaptive Adventures at 303.679.2770 or email: info@adaptiveadventures.org.