



**Florida
Disabled
Outdoors
Association**

Annual Report 2018



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Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA)

Mission

To enrich lives through accessible inclusive recreation for all

FDOA goal is to advocate, educate, motivate and provide support for physical activity to achieve benefits in the following areas:

- Developmental
- Healing
- Physical and Mental Wellness
- Vocational and Economic
- Societal



To Our Members

Dear members and partners,

We are proud to report evidence that shows we are impacting lives through accessible inclusive recreation. The board has taken strategic initiatives to ensure that people of all abilities are experiencing improved quality of life.



Continually we hear from people that are inspired to set goals and achieve them. One family member stated,

Since I became the accidental caregiver of my adult brother eight years ago, I have been challenged to find activities for him. I had almost given up until I heard about SportsAbility and then we discovered a world where he actually belongs. For the first time since we were kids, I saw my brother running, laughing and happy with people at the program that he knew were not judging him or staring. Not only did my brother feel well connected, I was able to connect with families and share information to find other open doors to a world of miracles for people with special needs. Thank you again for all that you do, it is well needed and greatly appreciated. It really makes my life as a caregiver that much easier knowing someone else out there actually cares enough to go that extra mile to create such a great program!

The stories keep us motivated to do more. Through partnerships and with the service of hundreds of volunteers, our FDOA team has been able to increase program offerings and provide additional outreach efforts to carry out the message of Active Leisure for Life!

We appreciate your support!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Gussak".

Laurie LoRe-Gussak, MBA, IOM, CAE
Executive Director

Programs



SportsAbility enhances the lives of people with disabilities by promoting active living and providing first-hand access to resources and activities designed to encourage participation regardless of age or ability level. People are able to try everything from sit water-skiing to rock wall climbing, martial arts and much more!



Participants of all abilities learn about the value of recreation and active leisure for everyone – especially people with disabilities. People discover the latest in equipment, trends, and resources. SportsAbility provides an opportunity for people to network with people with disabilities, resource providers, and community organizations. There is NO CHARGE to participants.

- 1,149 people attended the Leon County SportsAbility.
- 11,840 people registered for the SportsAbility Sampler at the Family Café in Orlando.
- More than \$150,000 of volunteer help and training was donated.
- Over 50 community partners and sponsors helped.



Miracle Sports in partnership with the City of Tallahassee provides Access to Athletics for people of all abilities. Games are adapted so that anyone can participate and be successful. The majority of our seasons are played on the Miracle Field, in Messer Park; this field provides a barrier free arena. Our game days are rich, inclusive environments where people of all abilities play together and encourage one another.

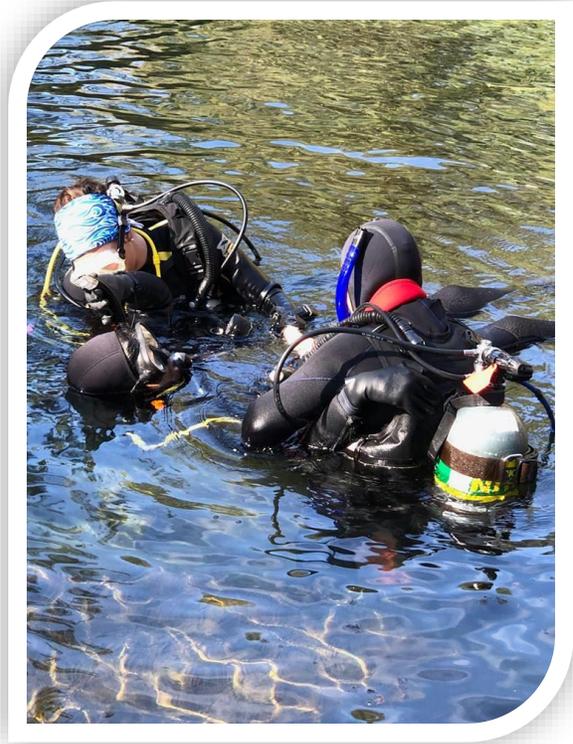


- Over 550 hours of team sports were played year-round and available to the community.
- Volunteer hours valued at more \$24,000.
- Miracle Sports partnered with Florida State University (FSU) Seminole Athletics Program to offer two Seminole Showdowns.
- Partnered with Adult Continuing Education (ACE) and FSU Sport Management to facilitate a weekly tennis program for adults with disabilities.

Community-based Therapeutic Recreation Program for People with Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries

This program, funded by the Florida Department of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, provides an education and resource referral to assist people with brain and spinal cord injuries in pursuing current recreation and leisure providers and available associate assistive services and technologies.

- FDOA provided information specifically dealing with physical activity for people with a brain injury to over 1,000 individuals.
- FDOA provided information specifically dealing with physical activity for people with a spinal cord injury to over 500 individuals.
- Educational programs were provided to healthcare professional at locations throughout Florida.
- Over 80 outreach events/programs were provided to over 20,000 attendees.



ALLOUT Adventure Program

An outdoor adventure program for people with disabilities. This program includes the mobility impaired hunting program, which is the benchmark for mobility-impaired hunts throughout the United States. The program also includes a variety of other outdoor adventure trips.

- Over 50 anglers with disabilities participated in the Hands Helping Anglers Program.
- Over 100 people of all abilities participated in the PotashCorp hunting and fishing trips.
- Numerous other fishing, hunting and water sport adventures were held.



Live a Day, Live Your Life Wellness and Recreation Assistive Technology Demo Days

FDOA partnered with the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) to host three Demo Days around Florida where people with paralysis could learn about and try a variety of adapted recreation assistive technology. The programs were funding in part by the Reeve Foundation.

- Over 300 people were able to try adaptive equipment.
- Programs were held in three rural locations around Florida to better serve those who have limited access to adaptive recreation equipment.
- Adaptive recreational equipment available for participants to try included off road track chairs, adapted kayaks, hand cycles, electric bikes, floating water wheelchairs, beach access mats, tandem sailing boat, wheel chair accessible power boats, fishing and hunting equipment, wheelchair accessible golf cart and more!



Resource Referral Network

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association maintains a Resource Referral Network of accessible inclusive programs and services, products, destinations and events. The database is accessible electronically at fdoa.org/resources. It is searchable by county or type of resource.

The database is a virtual liaison between providers and participants helping people of all abilities find the providers that meet their area of interest. The database currently has approximately 1,300 resources across Florida and beyond.

The screenshot shows the website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FDOA logo and four small images of people participating in outdoor activities. Below this is a green banner with the text "Florida Disabled Outdoors Association" and "Welcome to the FDOA Recreation Resource Database." The main search area is titled "Select criteria for recreation resources" and features three dropdown menus: "Type:" (set to "All"), "County:" (set to "All"), and "Activities:" (set to "All"). A "Get Resources" button is positioned below the "County:" dropdown. To the right of the "Activities:" dropdown is a long, scrollable list of activity categories, including Archery, Baseball, Basketball, and many others. Below the search area, there is a disclaimer: "The Florida Disabled Outdoor Association's listing of recreation services, program, service, product, event or destination. This database is not a guarantee of any resource, the user agrees not to hold the FDOA liable for problems." To the left of this disclaimer is the logo for the "Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program" and the text "Funded in part by:". To the right of the disclaimer is a partial sentence: "endorsement of any purposes only. By using this".

Return on Investment

We leverage revenues to fulfill our mission. With an annual budget just over \$200,000 from grants, state contracts, business sponsorships and donations; we are able to accomplish significant outcomes.

- We provide cost saving to society through our programs.
- We deliver meaningful education and advocacy to the community.
- We strengthen the community through partnerships and collaborations.
- We supplement our funding sources with donated goods and services and utilizing the power of volunteers and student involvement.



Board of Directors / Advisory Board

Board of Directors

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Gordon Palmer, President

Kristy Carter, Vice President

Ned Campbell, Treasurer

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Partners

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association gratefully thanks these partners and all of our other important contributors.





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