

## **Valor Games Far West Opening Ceremony in Foster City**

*Valor Games Series provides opportunities for Veterans and service members with disabilities to participate in sports and connect to community providers*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2013

The Valor Games Far West, part of the national Valor Games series, is a three-day introductory sport competition for Veterans and service members with physical disabilities. Community partners who provide ongoing opportunities in adapted sport will manage the competitions and meet the Veterans who live in their area. This event will be a catalyst for their year-round engagement in recreational activity and healthy lifestyles.

The Opening Ceremony is slated for 11am on June 11 at the amphitheater in Leo J. Ryan Memorial Park in Foster City. The archery competition will begin in the adjacent meadow by 1pm and features several elite level archers with disabilities as mentors, including Paralympic gold medalist Jeff Fabry.

The competition on June 12 is at the College of San Mateo and features the sport of powerlifting, which is also known as a bench press. Also that morning, there will be interactive adapted sport demonstrations and a resource fair for the Veterans. Later that afternoon, the competition shifts to the world class throwing field on campus for shot put and discus throws.

June 13 is the final day of competition and it takes place at Candlestick Park. The morning cycling event will take place in the expansive parking lot, and features instruction from U.S. Paralympian Kelly Crowley, who won two bronze medals in the 2012 London Paralympic Games. Veterans will ride different types of cycles depending on their physical abilities. The Closing Ceremony will follow at noon, inside the stadium, and features a catered lunch from Outback Steakhouse.

The event provides lodging and meals at no charge to the participants. Qualifying athletes include Veterans or active duty service members from any era. Their physical disabilities may fall into the following categories: amputation/limb loss; post-traumatic stress; spinal cord injuries; stroke; traumatic brain injuries; visual impairment and any disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Funding for the competition is being provided by VA.

The Valor Games were established in 2011 by World Sport Chicago in partnership with

U.S. Paralympics and VA to provide an introductory sports competition for Veterans and service members with a disability and to promote sports at the community level.

The local organizing committee is the Far West Wheelchair Athletic Association, which has provided sport and recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities in the region for over 40 years. Eight Paralympic Sport Clubs will manage the competitions each day and meet the Veterans in their communities, engaging them for future opportunities to be active throughout the year. The event is designed to be a catalyst for this interaction and ongoing athlete development.

To learn more about the sports being offered and view the entire event schedule, please visit [www.valorgamesfarwest.com](http://www.valorgamesfarwest.com).

*For more information about the 2013 Valor Games Far West, please contact Pam Redding, Event Director at (847) 323-4049 or [valorgames@fwwaa.org](mailto:valorgames@fwwaa.org).*

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