



Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing

From the top of the mountain all you see is [possibility](#).

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Media Alert

Wounded Warriors Weekend at Wintergreen Resort

Who: As many as 20 Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen who were terribly wounded on battlefields around the world, along with spouses and children. These Warriors live in the following communities: Lynchburg, VA., Hampton, VA., Jacksonville, NC., and Washington D.C.

What: 3rd Annual Wounded Warriors Weekend at Wintergreen Resort

Where: Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS), Wintergreen Resort

When: Jan. 26–28, 2007

Why: To help restore shattered bodies and shattered lives. To care for those who sacrificed so much, to educate health care professionals in the military about the rehabilitative benefits of snow sports, and to teach warriors to mentor and coach other warriors.

How: The soldiers and their families will come to Wintergreen from Camp Lejeune, Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Hampton, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda. As an important part of their rehabilitation, they will spend the weekend learning from WAS instructors how to ski and snowboard. The weekend isn't just about skiing and boarding, it's about helping the soldiers to understand that their new and different bodies offer

them new and different possibilities. They will learn to recognize these possibilities and how to seize them.

Many of them will arrive at the Wintergreen Resort still in pain from their recent wounds. They may be depressed, or anxious, or confused. They may not know what to do with their new bodies or how to motivate themselves to find out. By the time they leave they will have accomplished things they thought were impossible. They'll be armed with a new sense of purpose, self-confidence, and accomplishment. They will see new possibilities.

Schedule of Events Open to Media

Saturday Jan. 27

9:00 – 9:30 am Adaptive ski and snowboard equipment is fitted to students to accommodate their disabilities and physical needs. Photo opportunities will be available at the ski resort village area.
Location: Crawford Room

9:30 – 12 noon All Wounded Warrior students begin lessons. Photo/video opportunities of beginner lessons will be available in front of Potato Patch lower chairlift station. Brief interview opportunities will also be available. *Location: top of Potato Patch*

12:45 Group photo opportunity with all participants and instructors. *Location: top of Potato Patch*

1:30 Media Availability. Media representatives will have access to key organizers and participants. This will be in an informal “meet-and-talk” setting. *Location: Shenandoah Room*

The following participants will be available:

- *Michael Zuckerman*, Founder and Executive Director, Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing

- *Tom Brown*, Development Director, Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing; Director of WWW3
- *James Patterson*, Manager of Ski and Recreation Services at Wintergreen Resort
- *Julia Wray*, Manager, Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project of Disabled Sports/USA (DS/USA), the umbrella organization of which WAS is a member
- *Lonnie Moore*, President of the Board of Directors, Wounded Warrior Project
- Lt. (Ret.) Ed Salau, a Marine wounded in Iraq, who was a student at the first Wounded Warriors Weekend in January 2005 at Wintergreen, and is now an instructor for WAS.
- A first-time participant to be named later.

1:30 – 2:30

Lessons resume. Photo/video opportunities of more advanced students. *Location: Eagle's Swoop*

2:30 – 3:30

Final photo opportunities and to obtain brief interviews of students about their experience during the weekend. *Locations: Crawford Room, top of Potato Patch*

Media Contact

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About Wounded Warrior Weekend at Wintergreen (WWW)

WWW is an annual event held on the last weekend of January. The event is a partnership between Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing, which is the sponsor and lead organizer, Wintergreen Resort, Disabled Sports USA, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

The event invites severely injured members from any branch of the military to enjoy a complimentary weekend of skiing and snowboarding lessons as a part of their rehabilitation and recovery.

The purpose of the event is to help restore shattered bodies and shattered lives and to care for those who sacrificed so much. The warriors and their families come to Wintergreen from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda. As an important part of their rehabilitation, they will spend the weekend learning from WAS instructors how to ski and snowboard. The weekend isn't just about skiing and boarding, it's about helping the warriors to understand that their new and different bodies offer them new and different possibilities. During the event they learn to recognize these possibilities and how to seize them.

Many of the warriors may arrive at the Wintergreen Resort still in pain from their recent wounds. Many of the warriors may be depressed, or anxious, or confused when they arrive. They may not know what to do with their new bodies or how to motivate themselves to find out. By the time they leave they will have accomplished things they thought were impossible. One recent

attendee had lost his right leg below the knee barely one month before arriving at the event. Even though he had never skied before, he successfully learned to make his first turns on one ski using his good leg.

Regardless of their physical or mental state when they arrive, by the time they leave they'll be armed with a new sense of purpose, self-confidence, and accomplishment. They will see new possibilities.

About Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS)

The mission of Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing is to establish, operate, and maintain educational programs that encourage children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities to learn to ski. The program provides standard and adaptive equipment, as well as trained volunteer instructors, both adult and teenaged. Skiing offers disabled individuals profound therapeutic benefits, including increased physical vitality and stamina, as well as important improvements in overall mental and emotional health.

During the summer of 1996, WAS incorporated in the state of Virginia and achieved non-profit 501(c) 3 status with its chapter membership in Disabled Sports/USA, the largest sports and recreation organization for individuals with disabilities in the United States. Over the organization's ten-year history, WAS has given 1,300 ski lessons, and over 200 volunteer instructors have worked with the program. By 2005, over 600 disabled children,

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teenagers, and adults with a wide range of disabilities, including deafness and blindness, spina bifida, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, paraplegia, and quadriplegia, had been introduced to the sport of alpine skiing. This year, with a staff of ninety returning and first-year volunteer instructors, many of them professionals in medical and rehabilitative fields, we anticipate providing over 300 all-day private ski lessons. Our lessons are offered at an affordable rate of \$85 per day, with many scholarships available.

The region served by WAS includes the entire mid-Atlantic area of the United States. WAS also serves students from the metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C., Richmond, Va., Raleigh-Durham, NC, and many of the smaller cities and

rural communities within 150 miles of Wintergreen Ski Resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Though independent from Wintergreen Resort itself, WAS operates with the full support of Wintergreen's management and community.

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About Wintergreen Resort:

Wintergreen Resort is an 11,000-acre, four-season resort located in the Blue Ridge Mountains southwest of Charlottesville, Virginia. This beautiful hideaway is the ultimate vacation and conference spot, with more than 300 condominium-style accommodations; 45 holes of championship golf; snow skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing; an award-winning tennis program; a full-service, destination spa; 40,000 square feet of meeting and event space; and savory dining options. The resort is located adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway in beautiful Central Virginia near Charlottesville, just 90 minutes from Richmond, Va., three hours from Washington, D.C. and Raleigh, N.C., five and a half hours from Philadelphia, Pa. and eight hours from Atlanta, Ga. For more information, guests can call (434) 325-2200 or visit the resort's web site at www.wintergreenresort.com.

NOTE:

Close-in parking for media is available in Parking Lot #2. Look for WAS staff members at the entrance to Lot #2. They will escort you to designated areas for photos and interviews.

If you are a skier or a snow boarder, please contact Tom Brown at (434)851-9890 to request complimentary lift tickets