



Press Release/Public Service Announcement

Contact: Frederick Lewis
Phone: (318) 673-7737

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2:30 P.M., March 8, 2010

ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE FORMED

SHREVEPORT, LA, March 8, 2010 - Shreveport Public Assembly & Recreation (SPAR), along with Families Helping Families, First Tee of Northwest Louisiana, Louisiana Special Olympics, Caddo Parish School Board, and Louisiana GUMBO recently combined to form the Adaptive Sports and Leisure Opportunities Committee. The purpose of the committee is to broaden partnerships and collaborations with external agencies to increase participation in sports and leisure opportunities to persons with disabilities. Also to help benefit all participating agencies in accomplishing their individual goals through a combined effort.

The concept of forming the committee was through the collaborative efforts of Patrick Wesley, SPAR Assistant Director and Germaine Williams, SPAR Therapeutic Superintendent. Those participating in the endeavor include Patrick Wesley, Germaine Williams, Chanel Jackson, Executive Director of Family Helping Families; Elton Taylor, Executive Director of First Tee of Northwest

Louisiana; Charlene Boles, Co-Area Director of Special Olympics; Bill Samuels, Supervisor of Adaptive Education, Caddo Parish School Board Special Programs; Earl Colbert, Board Member First Tee of Northwest Louisiana and Pam Carey, Louisiana GUMBO Coordinator.

The first upcoming event from the collaboration on the Adaptive Sports and Leisure Opportunities Committee is the Adaptive Softball League which begins on March 20, 2010 and runs through April 17, 2010 on each Saturday 11:00am - 1:00pm at Southern Hills Ball Field #3. Practice will be held on Mondays 4:00 - 6:00pm, at Southern Hills. The league is geared toward individuals with disabilities of all ages. All events are "FREE" and open to the public.

Additional Upcoming Schedule of Events:

March 20: Family Helping Families Region 7 Special Education Advocacy Conference @ Bossier Instructional Center @ 9am-4:30.

April 9: Special Olympics Aquatics @ LSU-Shreveport @ 9am

April 10: Special Olympics Dean Williams Run @ Clyde Fant Parkway @ 8am

April 23: GUMBO GAMES (Games Uniting the Mind and Body) track & field events @ Lee Hedges Stadium 8am.

April 28: Family Helping Families Partnership Disability Rights Rally @ State Capitol, Washington DC from 1:00pm-1:30pm

April 29 - 30; & May 1 Special Olympics track & field events @ Lee Hedges Stadium @ 9am.

May 7: SPAR "Fit for Life" Triple Play Clinic @ Bill Cockrell Tennis Center- 9am

June 7 - July 30: SPAR's Therapeutic Adaptive Summer Camp 8:00am-4:30pm

June 17: Therapeutic Summer Camp Kickball Jamboree @ Southern Hills 9:30am

July 17: Therapeutic Inclusion Wheelchair Basketball Tournament @ A.B. Palmer 9:00

July 27: SPAR, Special Olympics, and First Tee of La Unified Golf Clinic @ Huntington Golf Course @ 9:30

September 11: SPAR-Therapeutic Division/Overton Brooks MICHC presents Victory Games Social and Gospel Extravaganza @ A.C. Steere 9am-geared towards wounded veterans.

September 25 - Dec 4: SPAR Adaptive Fall Basketball League (Games played every Saturday @ Querbes Recreation Center-10am)

For more information contact Germaine Williams, Therapeutic Superintendent at 318.673.7873 or Yolanda Bumcon, Therapeutic Supervisor at 318.213.0435 or visit www.myspar.org and click on "Therapeutic Recreation".