

June 5, 2012 - Shreveport Firefighter Volunteers To Help Special Athlete

Lakeria Taylor has been invited to participate in the U.S. Paralympic Trials

Caddo Magnet High School sophomore Lakeria Taylor, with the help of Shreveport Firefighter Matthew French, will fulfill her dreams of competing in this year's G.U.M.B.O. games. Because she met the Junior Qualifying standard in several events, she has been invited to participate in the U.S. Paralympic Trials from June 27 – July 1 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

“Since Matthew began working with Lakeria as her runner guide, she has increased her running times tremendously,” said Mrs. Taylor. “We are grateful that he decided to use his talents to help her achieve her goals.”

Taylor, who lost her sight due to cancer as a small child, always had the dream of becoming an accomplished track and field athlete. French, who began her career with the Shreveport Fire Department in 2010, will continue serve as her coach and accompany her with her to all of her track meets.

“We are honored to support Matthew and Lakeria at the G.U.M.B.O. games. Matthew's dedication and willingness to give back to Lakeria and his community is truly an inspiration to all of us,” said Fire Chief Craig Mulford. “We can't wait for them to 'Bring Home The Gold.'”

