



# Sun Valley Adaptive Sports

We change lives and make people smile!

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## Features

### Sun Valley Adaptive Sports to work with university to better veterans' lives

By [Karen Bossick](#)  
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Severely disabled veterans now have the opportunity to participate in a unique educational opportunity, thanks to the University of Idaho and Sun Valley Adaptive Sports.

The University is one of the first in the country to offer special educational scholarships to severely wounded service members and their families.

And those veterans will be given the opportunity to come to Sun Valley for ski trips during Spring Break or rafting trips and adventure camps at other times, courtesy of Sun Valley Adaptive Sports.

They also will be given the opportunity to take part in the organization's Dreams Come True program, which is like Make-A-Wish except it furthers rehabilitation through sports and recreation or even arts endeavors like pottery making.

"It's a great partnership," said Tom Iselin, who heads up Sun Valley Adaptive Sports. "As of July 5, 20,000 men and women have been injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. And 8,700 of those were seriously injured."

"Of these 8,700, some return with spinal cord injuries, amputated limbs, and severe emotional trauma. These man and women need to learn how to reestablish some of their old life - as well as - learn how to start a new life. Sun Valley Adaptive Sports can help with both!"

Operation Education Scholarship is a pioneering program designed to help veterans who were severely and permanently wounded as a result of service in Afghanistan or Iraq since Sept. 11, 2001.

And it's not limited to the veterans. Their spouses will also be eligible for the scholarship - a first in the nation - since many of them may become the major breadwinners of the family as a result of the veterans' disabilities.



Sun Valley Adaptive Sports is starting to rack up the success stories among the disabled veterans it has brought to Sun Valley. Jerry Ezell, above, whose leg was partially paralyzed when shrapnel ripped through his 5-ton truck, came here to learn to work with children with disabilities. Aaron Coats, whose fuel truck was hit by three rocket-propelled grenades, found himself the beneficiary of a new adaptive mountain bike from Formula Sports after a Sun Valley Adaptive Sports donor learned how much he used to like to mountain bike.



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The University will provide wounded veterans with tuition, fees and books, on-campus housing, transportation, medical assistance, childcare, adaptive equipment, tutoring and mentorship. It also plans to partner with corporations around the country to offer internships and assist in job placement.

“Many members of the U.S. armed forces have sustained life-changing injuries that seem to limit their options when their time of service is complete,” said the University’s First Lady Karen White. “We are providing an avenue for them to pursue and education that will prepare them for a new life, as well as career opportunities.”

The program is being funded by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation, University of Idaho alumni and friends and from corporations and foundations interested in assisting America’s wounded veterans.

White said she hopes the program stimulates action among other colleges and universities to create similar programs.

The university plans to welcome its first Operation Education Scholarship recipient during its upcoming fall semester, which starts Aug. 21.

Information: John Sawyer at the University of Idaho at 1-208-885-7979 or [johns@uidaho.edu](mailto:johns@uidaho.edu). Gifts may be made online at [www.uidaho.edu/givetoidaho](http://www.uidaho.edu/givetoidaho) or by calling 1-208-885-7069.



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