

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

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## VA, DAV to co-host National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

### *Hundreds of disabled Veterans to take on life-changing adaptive sports challenge*

WASHINGTON — Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the [National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic](#) will take place March 31 to April 5 in Snowmass, Colorado.

The annual clinic, hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and [DAV \(Disabled American Veterans\)](#), serves as a world leader in adaptive winter sports instruction for injured Veterans, and promotes sports therapy and rehabilitation through adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey, scuba diving and other adaptive sports and activities.

“Adaptive sports therapy gives freedom to those heroes who have fought for our freedom,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. “This clinic empowers Veterans to move past perceived limitations, reach their own personal victories and prove the impossible is possible.”

For many of the hundreds of Veterans who participate in the clinic, the adaptive sports journey is just beginning. For others, it becomes a way of life in Snowmass and is a passion they take back home. The hope is Veterans will build upon this experience and continue to lead active, healthy lives. Nearly 390 Veterans participated in the event in 2018.

“For those of us who were seriously injured in military service and have spent years being told our abilities are now limited, there is nothing more empowering than coming to this clinic and being able to prove how much we really can do,” said DAV National Commander Dennis Nixon, a Vietnam Veteran and amputee. “It’s a dose of confidence and self-reliance that can —and does — truly change lives.”

Hundreds of volunteers, strategic corporate partnerships, nonprofit organizations and individual donors make this life-changing clinic possible.

Interviews, b-roll, [photos](#) and other media opportunities are available leading up to and including the week of the event. For more information, contact: VA’s Jill Atwood at 801-330-1198, [jill.atwood@va.gov](mailto:jill.atwood@va.gov); and DAV’s Todd Hunter at 321-217-8255, [thunter@dav.org](mailto:thunter@dav.org).

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