



OPERATION TRACKSHOES

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Hello!

We extend an invitation to participate in Operation Trackshoes. This unique sports festival for people with developmental disabilities is celebrating its 49th year and offers a full length competitive track and field meet, a number of family picnic type games, swimming, softball, basketball, dances, concerts and banquets. Mark Friday June 7 to Sunday June 9, 2019 on your calendar now. Participants of any age (generally not younger than 6 years old) up to older adults are welcome.

Operation Trackshoes' counsellor system is a key component in orchestrating an integrated environment at this event. Competitors are matched with individuals who, in a role similar to camp counsellors, provide support, assistance and friendship. Relationship building is a key element of this role and we try to ensure that the number of counsellors is great enough to allow maximum opportunities for fun and interaction. Some of the sporting activities are open to counsellors as well, and everyone participates in the leisure and social activities together.

The Junior program has a specific focus on integration: children without disabilities from Elementary and Middle School are matched with competitors of the same age, usually on a one-to-one basis. These peer counsellors will provide friendship and participate in both the competition and the social events. Adult counsellors support these partnerships.

Operation Trackshoes is similar to a camp in that, upon arrival, competitors and counsellors are assigned to each other and remain under the full-time jurisdiction of Operation Trackshoes Society until they leave. Coaches and escorts are required to provide appropriate on-campus support at all times, and those from out of town will have space reserved for them in the *coach dorm*.

We welcome both trained athletes who wish to compete against others similarly prepared, and those people with no prior training who just wish to have a lot of fun. All events and activities are targeted to specific age groups: elementary/middle school children, teens, young adults and older adults. In addition we offer events for individuals with multiple disabilities who are wheelchair users.

We hope to see you at OT 2019.

Judith Armstrong
President

Cathy Macauley
Registrar