



OPERATION TRACKSHOES

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Hello!

We extend an invitation to participate in Operation Trackshoes at the University of Victoria. This unique sports festival for the citizens of British Columbia with developmental disabilities is celebrating its 48th 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 down the weekend of Friday June 8 to Sunday June 10, 2018 on your calendar now. Participants of any age (generally not younger than 6 years old) up to older adults are welcome. Competitors participate with others their own age and overnight participants are housed according to age.

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.

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. These peer counsellors will provide friendship and participate in both the competition and the social events. Adult counsellors support these partnerships.

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.

There are two registration packages at Operation Trackshoes. (For the purposes of this document, a coach is defined to be anyone accompanying a competitor.)

1. The Overnight Package. The fees have not been finalized. However for overnight competitors they will not exceed \$285 and for overnight coaches they will not exceed \$200. This includes meals and accommodation from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. *Local competitors may also purchase this package.*

2. The Day Package. This is for competitors who do not stay overnight. At a minimum, they will participate at the meet on Saturday (between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm) and then on Sunday (between 8:45 am and 12:30 pm). The fees have not yet been finalized but will not exceed \$50. This includes a bag lunch on Saturday. In addition competitors, coaches may purchase one or more of the following:
 - a) A ticket for dinner & festivities Friday evening - \$10
 - b) A ticket for the Saturday banquet and dance - \$20
 - c) A Sunday lunch ticket - \$10

Please note:

- There will probably be more competitors applying for each package than we will have spaces. Therefore, if you are not already on our mailing list, please contact us as soon as possible.
- We will not permit competitors to participate in Operation Trackshoes who have arranged their own accommodation with the University. All competitors purchasing day packages must stay off campus. This is primarily because we are obliged to provide safety and security coverage for all competitors on the University of Victoria campus and the additional overnight numbers could compromise our ability to do this.
- The bag lunch on Saturday is also free for coaches, and anyone else visiting for the day.

We are committed to continuing our travel equalization plan. If you live in the northern part of Vancouver Island or on the mainland, we will again be able to help you with your travel costs. This is an automatic subsidy – there will be no need for you to apply.

Additional subsidies are also available to *individuals* needing additional financial assistance. We encourage you to apply by sending a letter outlining the situation. Please do not do this until you receive our *invitation to reserve* mailing late February.

To contact our registrar Cathy Macauley, send her an email at info@trackshoes.ca.

We hope to see you in June.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Armstrong
President

Nick Marsden
Vice President