


Great Lakes Center
A Member of the ADA National Network

800-949-4232 (V/TTY)
www.ada.org

Arts~n~Rec 

Fishing And Boating For A Variety Of Disabilities

Arts-n-Rec Webinar Series:
Thursday, June 9, 2022



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Paralyzed Veterans of America B.A.S.S. Tournament Series



**Presented by:
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Senior Associate Director
Sports and Recreation**



 PVA.org

 PVA1946   ParalyzedVeterans

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History PVA B.A.S.S. Tournament Series

- **Began in 1996**
- **Many participants have fished with us since the beginning.**
- **7 stops (Oklahoma to Maryland)**
- **Average of 50-60 participants**
- **Impact over 200 veterans and people with disabilities each year.**

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Program Blueprint

- **Budget**
- **How we designed the program.**
 - **Independence**
 - **Safety**
 - **Resources**
- **Assessing venues and cities.(Docks, Accessible Bathrooms, Launch sites, etc..)**
- **Risk Management and Assessment.**
- **Roles and responsibilities. (Chapters/PVA National/Partners)**
- **Adaptive Equipment?**
- **Rules and Regulations.**
- **Inland Fisheries/Conservation**
- **All Inclusive**
- **Social Aspect**
- **Volunteers**



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Growing the Program

- Why are adaptive sports important
- Communication
- Partnering
- PVA B.A.S.S. Club(Fishing Club)
- Word of Mouth
- Mentors
- Angler Representative
- Tournament Directors



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Designing Your Program

Build Your Blueprint!

- Rules and Regulations
 - Know your state laws
 - What are you fishing for?
 - What is the purpose? Competition/Recreation?
 - Equipment-does it interfere with independence?
- Venue
 - Accessible
 - Tents, Food, Water, Ice
 - Bait
 - Emergency Plans
 - Accessibility



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Designing Your Program Continued

- **Recruitment**
 - **Who can attend? Open to all?**
 - **Who to reach out to (Depends on who event is geared to)**
 - **Volunteers-Boat Captains**
- **Experience/Needs**
 - **Scales/Equipment**
 - **Knowledgeable People**
 - **Give Aways-(needs of attendees. We want to keep them fishing)**
 - **Social/Support**
 - **Service Animals**
 - **Food/Lodging/Transportation/Fees**

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Ways to Make Your Fishing Great

- **Appropriate Partners**
- **Assessing Equipment**
- **Surveys and Feedback**
- **Next Event Notification**
- **Keep In Touch**
- **Move Beyond the Event-Resources**



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Fishing for Fun

- **Preplanning**
 - Find your spot (check for tournaments, accessibility, cost, safety, where to go)
 - Check the weather!
 - Check your rods and reels
 - Adaptive equipment/support
 - Know your bait.(make your own? Buy your bait)
 - Catch up on the rules and regulations-what can you catch and what is the limit?
 - Catch and Release(conservation)
 - Plan your trip-parking, drive time, lodging
 - License
 - Live well
- **Fishing**
 - Know your limits
 - Food and water
 - Right clothes
 - Etiquette
 - Enjoy

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Location, Location, Location

How to find a good spot?

- **Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Wildlife Conservation, or equivalent website.**
- **Local county or state**
- **State and National Parks**
- **Ponds, Lakes, and Rivers**
- **Deep Sea fishing/Saltwater**
- **Word of mouth**

Need to check all accessibility, laws and regulations, and size and fishing limits. Get prepared before you go!

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Equipment

Do you need adaptive equipment?

- Work with a professional (recreational therapists, adaptive sports support, etc.)

What is available?

- Reel Gripper
- Rod Holder
- Turbo Set Rod Holder
- Wrist Band
- Wrist saver
- Alert Reels for Visually Impaired (beeps and lights up when fish bite!)

If you are just beginning fishing, take the time to determine if you need equipment. You may not need it and should be evaluated before purchasing. If you do not have a professional work with an adaptive fishing group to talk through equipment needs.

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Bank Fishing

- Grass, Gravel, Dock-Know before you go. Prepare for surface-do you need assistance?
- Track Chairs-Necessary?
- Tent
- Water
- Food
- SPF Fishing gear
- All weather gear
- What bait? What Type of water(frog, worm, make your own)
- Safety First-First Aid Kit, charged cell phone, fishing buddy
- Know the rules and regulations of the fishing venue

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Boat Fishing

Things to Know

- Hire a good guide or charter-Check them out before you go.
- Accessibility: lifts, ramps, water stairs
 - Rod holders
 - Seat Rod Holders
- Hand Controls-get training. Make sure it's a good fit for your boat.
- Always have a fishing partner
- Everything in working order!
- Wear your kill switch
- Fish in your chair-size of boat matters(sides of boats matter)
- Accessible Pontoon Boats

Safety first-make sure if you are hiring a guide or captain, they are familiar with people with disabilities and service animal needs.

Now Go Get Fishing!

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Conclusion



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Resources

<https://pva.org/adaptive-sports/bass-tour-get-hooked/>

<https://www.bassmaster.com/>

<https://projecthealingwaters.org/>

Local PVA Chapter
 Local Veterans Medical Center
 Local Adaptive Sports Groups/Clubs
 State Inland and Fisheries

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This list is not an endorsement of any products, suppliers, apps or other

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Resources Continued

<https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2018/december/adaptive-boating>

<https://packyourtent.com/adaptive-outdoors/>

<https://www.achievableconcepts.com.au/achievableconcepts/welcome>

<https://www.rammount.com/>

<https://handiaccessories.com/>

<https://rexfly.com/adaptive-one-arm-fishing/>

<https://freedomadaptivesystems.com/>

Check your state for license requirements

Apps

- Fishbrain
- Fishing Forecast
- Fishing Spots
- Many others

Outdoor Grants-Bass Pro/Cabela's Outdoor Fund


Discounted Merchandise-Fishing Companies

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QUESTIONS




**You may type and submit questions
in the Q&A Area of the Zoom.**




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Session Evaluation
Your feedback is important to us!

You will receive an email following the
session with a link to the online evaluation.



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Next Session:

Thursday, August 11, 2022

**They Are Called “Natural”
Resources, Not “Built” Resources;
How Do We Access Them?**

Registration available at:
www.adaconferences.org/artsnrec

