



VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

Est. 1981

Thank you for supporting the National Veterans Wheelchair Games!

Since 1981, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), through the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) have been empowering Veterans living with Spinal Cord Injuries, Amputations, Multiple Sclerosis, Head Injuries, Stroke, and other physical disabilities to live more independent and active lives through adaptive sports, fitness, and recreation.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is an adaptive sports and rehabilitation program. Veterans compete in over 22 sport events and provide support to “new” Veterans fresh in their rehabilitation process. Most importantly, Veterans learn through the experience the critical tools necessary to adapt and overcome perceived barriers in our communities, travel and in life beyond the perception of “disability”.

The program could not happen without the commitment of Volunteers. Each year, an army of more than 2500 Volunteers are needed to support the program and Veterans. The generosity of your time and compassion, in any capacity, serves to support the Veterans’ experience and keeps the event rolling. You are making a difference!

The following information will help support your efforts and success. Staff at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be working with you directly and available for any questions.

Thank you for stepping up! We couldn’t do this without you.

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VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VOLUNTEERING FOR THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES (NVWG)

Volunteers contribute in many ways to support the NVWG, including:

- Assisting the NVWG team in various logistics and administrative roles.
- Greeting and guiding Veterans as they arrive and depart at the host site airport.
- Lending specific sport experience during the event.
- Assisting Veterans during events or lending specific sport experience to officials.

NOTE: NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED. Event staff will train, supervise, and support each Volunteer in the role they are assigned. **Please let us know if you are being asked to do something you are not comfortable with or able to do. We'll find another task for you.**

Each volunteer assignment will represent a critical task in shifts lasting 3-4 hours. Register for one or more assignments that fit your availability. There are roles and opportunities to match anyone's interest or experience. Whatever you can contribute, you'll make a positive impact to the Veterans experience.

Your FLEXIBILITY is extremely appreciated. We will do everything to support the role that you have registered. In the event that a critical task comes up, we may ask you to step into that duty to support the success of the event.

Volunteer Age Requirements

Children aged 14-17 years can Volunteer independently with a signed parental consent form. Children ages 10-15 may Volunteer alongside a parent or guardian.

Code of Conduct

Everyone is responsible for supporting a positive environment. The NVWG reserves the right to immediately terminate a volunteer role for any behavior that is abusive or deemed offensive. The Volunteer will be asked to leave immediately.

VOLUNTEER ETIQUETTE

DO:

- Sign up through our online NVWG Volunteer Registration page at: www.Wheelchairgames.org.

- If you cannot attend your session, please contact us at the number identified in your confirmation message.
- Bring a form of ID and arrive on time for volunteer check-in.
- Bring only what is necessary. ***There is no secure storage at venues for purses or other valuables.***
- Bring family and friends as spectators. We need fans to cheer the Veterans on to victory!
- Dress for the weather and the convention center can be a little chilly. Plan on volunteering regardless of the weather.
- Wear the provided NVWG Volunteer T-Shirt.
- Limit your assistance to the role that you have signed up for and under the guidance of NVWG staff or officials.

DON'T:

- Call the venue to which you have been assigned. People there will not have any information about your assignment.
- Provide your contact information to the participants.
- During the events, follow the guidance given by the event officials. Assistance not allowed could result in the Veteran disqualification from that event.
- Carry weapons of any kind.
- Bring any alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Approach VIPs attending the NVWG.

TIPS FOR EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- **SMILE!!** You never get a second chance to make a first and last impression. A cheerful attitude makes any situation better.
- **Service** – Make serving others your #1 priority. Exceed their expectations where possible.
- **Appearance** – As a NVWG volunteer please maintain a neat, clean, and professional appearance at all times. Wearing comfortable shoes is also a must. Wearing the NVWG Volunteer Shirt is required during your shift.
- **Courtesy** – Engage our guests by looking them in the eye, speaking directly to them and letting them know that they matter.
- **Teamwork** – A team is a group of people who go out of their way to make each other look good. Volunteers are a critical part of the team supporting the success of the NVWG!

- **Information** – You can't know everything. If someone asks a question and you don't know the answer, always provide a positive response. For example: "That is a great question. Let me find out that answer for you." Then seek out event staff for support.

Your enthusiasm and dedication to this effort can help to provide an enjoyable experience for participants. Whether you interact directly with the Veterans or provide behind the scenes assistance your help is vital. THANK YOU!!!

VOLUNTEER LOGISTICS

Registration

All prospective volunteers must complete the NVWG Volunteer Registration. Pre-registration is strongly recommended in order to secure the desired volunteer role. Registration is also available on-site at the NVWG Volunteer Registration Command Center at the host site Convention Center. On-site volunteer opportunities will be limited to those roles not previously assigned.

Check-in/out

Volunteers must check in when they arrive for their shift at the designated NVWG Volunteer Command Center. We ask that you check out at the end of your shift and report any issues or concerns that may have come up. This also gives us another chance to say thanks!

Orientation

After completing the NVWG Volunteer Registration, you will be provided with a reporting time/location and contact person. That individual will be available to you throughout the experience to train, supervise and help problem solve any issues that come up. If at any time, there is a concerning situation or if you are injured while volunteering, that person will be available to assist.

Injuries

If at any time during your volunteer role you have an injury, NVWG Medical Staff is available. They will be in clearly identifiable NVWG red shirts with white medical crosses. Also, please report the issue immediately to your assigned event supervisor, NVWG official, or NVWG Volunteer Command Center.

Volunteer Meals

For each day of Volunteering (four hours or more) you will receive a meal voucher (maximum one meal voucher per day). The vouchers may be used in designated Convention Center concessions. A list will be provided when you check in. For venues away from the Convention Center, some event sites may not provide meals. We recommend you also pack a snack in case a situation arises that prevents you from getting food in a timely manner. We will also have snacks available if needed.

Clothing

Enrolled volunteers will receive one official NVWG volunteer T-shirt to wear during their shifts. If you volunteer for multiple days, we ask that you bring that shirt back each day. This will serve as a uniform and help identify volunteers and staff to Veterans and other venue staff that may require assistance. Remember to wear comfortable and safe footwear. The key to comfort is being prepared for unseasonably warm weather and the possibility of rain. Bring a light jacket or raincoat if you will be attending outdoor events.

Parking

Parking around the host city convention center or community venues could be challenging, please plan accordingly. Limited free parking may be available, so arrive early. If those spots are taken, parking will be at the volunteer's expense. Refer to your confirmation email for more detailed parking instructions specific to your assignment and venue.

SAFETY

Medical Issues

If at any time you have a concern about yourself or a Veteran, please report it immediately to your assigned volunteer supervisor or NVWG Official.

Security

If you see a concern, report it. Immediately contact your volunteer supervisor, NVWG Official or venue security personnel. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Wear credentials at all times and expect to show them at security access points. All attendees will/should be wearing a NVWG wristband or uniform. If you see a suspicious individual, report it.
- Leave valuables at home. The NVWG will not be responsible for lost items.
- In case of emergency, contact the nearest medical or security volunteer, or dial 911 from the closest phone.
- Do not leave gym bags, luggage or backpacks unattended; they may be subject to confiscation.
- Lock your vehicles.
- During the competition, if you witness behavior by Veterans or others that is escalating and you are concerned, please report it immediately.

Controlled Substances and Weapons

There is a zero-tolerance policy for weapons and illegal drugs. Alcohol is not permitted at any of the venue sites. Volunteers will not be allowed entry if they report to duty under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

NVWG EVENT DESCRIPTIONS AND POSSIBLE ROLES

Every effort is made to support the Veterans and teams from arrival in the host city through departure. Volunteer opportunities begin with welcoming the Veteran at the gate in the airport to wishing them well as they get on the plane to return home. In between there are countless needs.

Examples of volunteer roles include assisting with luggage, signing Veterans in at event registration, assisting the line-up for the parade of athletes at Opening Ceremonies, keeping score at Wheelchair Basketball, handing out water at Softball, assisting with Awards Ceremonies, even cheering the Veterans on to victory makes a difference. The list is long. Whether you are on the front line or behind the scenes, each job is critical!

NVWG OPERATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

AIRPORT:

Site / Place – Host City Airport

Duties - Assisting Hospitality Area, Guest Services, Veteran and Team Escorts. Volunteers will meet Veterans at a designated areas and escort athletes to baggage areas and NVWG bus loading sites; Transportation teams will load athletes onto specially equipped buses and secure chairs to floor of bus for transport to each of the hotels.

The same process will take place in reverse on departure day to include securing athletes onto buses at the hotel, transporting them to the airport, offloading the bus, and accompanying the Veteran to the ticketing counter with their luggage.

NOTE – This is one of the NVWG's most important opportunities to make and leave an impression on each Veteran.

Qualifications –

- For escorts, walking long distances from the arrival/departure gate to the NVWG loading area would also be required.
- If assisting with luggage, being able to bend and lift heavy (+30lb) suitcases is required.
- If assisting with transportation, the ability to bend and twist to secure the wheelchairs is needed.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Site/Place: Designated NVWG Event Hotels

Duties: The intention is to welcome the Veterans upon arrival at the hotels, assist from the transportation area to the lobby, and help manage luggage and other personal items. At the end of the event, the reverse support is needed to help Veterans manage

their belongings and equipment and get on the NVWG buses to head to the airport. These are long days but critical shifts. Frequently, traveling can raise a lot of frustration and anxiety. A smiling, helpful face can make anyone feel more at ease and can set a great tone for the coming week.

Qualifications:

Physically fit, able to lift (+30lbs) luggage

AWARDS CEREMONIES

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – There are immediate award ceremonies for some events or helping with designated award ceremony sessions throughout the week to celebrate the Veteran accomplishments. Assistance is needed to set up the awards, help us determine and process the correct medals and coordinate a raucous medal ceremony.

Qualifications:

Should be organized, outgoing, personable, and excited to contribute to the celebratory nature of the presentation of athletic medals.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center or designated location

Duties – The Opening and Closing Ceremonies are important community celebrations. The Opening Ceremony welcomes the Veterans to the NVWG and host community while empowering the Veterans and sets the tone to make that year's NVWG a wild and successful event. The Closing Ceremonies wrap up the remarkable program and challenges the Veterans to go home and keep the momentum they've started rolling!

Both events need an army of volunteers to help with a variety of duties that include, but are not limited to, helping with lining up Veterans for the Parade of Athletes, crowd control, assisting with setting up, helping the Veterans carry their meals to the table, assisting with the logistics of the event such as carrying flags, signs and banners, ushering, and directing.

Qualifications: Should be organized, outgoing, personable.

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME):

Site / Place: Designated NVWG Event Hotels

Duties – Volunteers needed to assist in organizing, dispensing and basic setup of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) bath chairs, raised toilet seats, transfer benches, commodes, patient lifts, etc.

Qualifications:

Ability to lift a minimum of 15 pounds

EXPO / REGISTRATION:

Site / Place: - Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Energetic volunteers are needed to assist in the set-up and execution of the NVWG Registration and Expo. Volunteers will assist NVWG staff in receiving merchandise to be stuffed into bags for distribution, open boxes, inventory merchandise, fold T-shirts, and stuff bags, break down and dispose of boxes in appropriate recycling containers. You will also assist vendors arriving to set up their stops. During the Registration/Expo volunteers are needed to assist with registration booths, distribute meal tickets, take identification photos, distribute memorabilia items, and assist with registration packets and crowd control, among other duties.

Qualifications:

- Capable of organizing items and following checklists.
- Will need a few individuals capable of lifting heavy boxes (20 - 50 lbs.).

CLASSIFICATION:

Site / Place – Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Assist medical staff with crowd control during Classification of Veteran Athletes. Manage issuance and turn-in of pagers. Serve as runners as necessary. Provide other assistance to Classification staff as directed.

Qualifications:

- Personable, well-spoken, and able to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Strong people and communications skills required.
- Great opportunity for medical students or age of 14 and over high school students interested in medicine.
- Must be able to stand/walk for long periods and be able to work all day.

GUEST SERVICES:

Site / Place – Host Site Airport, Convention Center and NVWG Event Hotels (Veteran arrival and departure)

Duties – Guest Services volunteers provide critical information to maximize the Veterans experience at the event and in the host community and to help athletes, their families, companions, coaches problem solve issues that may arise during the NVWG.

Qualifications:

- Personal communication skills to help problem solve issues and communicate with the NVWG to resolve issues.
- Possess knowledge of the host area to help suggest opportunities for Veterans and stakeholders to get involved outside the NVWG events.
- Must be articulate, personable, and patient.

SITE SET-UP and BREAKDOWN:

Site/Place – NVWG Event Sites

Duties –Site set-up/breakdown volunteers assist the NVWG Logistics team to manage the NVWG inventory and assure the events are set up in a timely manner to support the Veteran experience and program schedule.

Qualifications:

- Ability to lift more than 40lbs and be able to bend and work on the ground.
- Ability to use tools and set up equipment and problem solve potential equipment issues.
- Will be part of a team working under conditions of a tight schedule, heavy workload and often changing deadlines.

SPECIALTY WHEELCHAIRS:

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: The goal of the Specialty Chair team is to provide a secure area at the host site convention center event floor to store the Veterans adaptive sports equipment. Veterans check in their equipment at the beginning of the week and then staff/volunteers attend the area to check out those items **ONLY** to those authorized by the Veteran. At the conclusion of the week, Veterans will check out the items to take home. Volunteers assist Veterans in filling out the required check-in materials and mark the equipment. During the week, you will assist with the check-in/out process.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers who are detail-oriented and patient.
- Ability to handle very busy times and then long periods where there will not be a lot to do.
- Able to be organized and keep track of chairs in and chairs out.
- Ability to bend and lift light objects (25lbs) helpful.
- We would prefer volunteers that are available and willing to work on multiple days and/or multiple shifts to keep re-training to a minimum.

TRANSPORTATION

Site / Place: Host Site Airport; NVWG Venues including Convention Center and hotels.

Duties: Assist NVWG Transportation Team with the loading process of Veterans on event buses. This includes guiding the Veteran on wheelchair ramps and securing / releasing straps that secure the wheelchair on the bus. Volunteers will be oriented to the right procedures to secure the wheelchairs and supervised throughout this process.

Qualifications:

- The shifts will vary between the high demand times and drop-in events required for Veterans transport. Flexibility and patience are a must.
- All shifts will be in outdoor settings. Shade, water, and breaks will be available, but the individuals need to tolerate the heat/weather including long periods of standing.
- Bending and twisting and working in small spaces is needed to secure the wheelchairs.

VOLUNTEER OFFICE:

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center or designated NVWG Venues

Duties – Volunteers serve as an all-purpose, utility volunteer in the Volunteer Office. Opportunities include signing in / out volunteers in the NVWG Volunteer Command Center, distributing and tracking Volunteer Meal Vouchers, distributing volunteer shirts and ID bracelets, escorting volunteers/others to specific event areas as requested, and possibly answering phones or running errands for the NVWG Volunteer staff. Volunteers may also be asked to fill unplanned shortages at various NVWG events that arise.

Qualifications:

- Maintain a polite and professional attitude.
- Positive communication skills a must.
- Acquire a good working knowledge of the events schedule, locations, and general information.
- Knowledge of computers helpful.

NVWG EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available and necessary in all the NVWG adaptive sport events. It is helpful to have some knowledge of the particular sport, but it is not required. Orientation and training will be conducted at every event to assure that Volunteers are comfortable performing the tasks that are asked. NVWG Event Officials will also be able in each event to respond to questions or concerns.

NVWG Event Officials will make any decisions that impact the results and handle conflicts between Veterans. There are tasks in each sport that do not require sports knowledge such as registering Veterans, inputting results and data, and handing out equipment. Helping out at courtside also is a great opportunity to be near the action and cheer on the Veterans to success!

Critical Event Volunteer Recommendations:

- Dress appropriately for weather for outdoor venues. Convention Centers are traditionally cool, bring a sweatshirt or we have great memorabilia for sale.
- Please arrive earlier than the scheduled time you receive in your confirmation. You'll need time to find parking and check-in at the Volunteer Command Center and then get to your assigned work area.
- Notify the NVWG Event Official if you have questions or are not comfortable completing the task you are assigned.
- While working the events, please consult with the NVWG Event Official if there are questions regarding rules or decisions.
- If you see something of concern, bring it up immediately to your event supervisor or NVWG Event Official.

9 BALL

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: 9-Ball is a contemporary form of Billiards. Duties include but not limited to:

- Assisting event staff with Veteran Check-In and other miscellaneous needs of the event.
- Table Assistants – Assist the Veterans with miscellaneous needs during the event.
- Official Scorekeeper – Each Table Tennis table has an Official Scorekeeper that tracks the score of the competition. They are supported by an NVWG Official.
- Statisticians – These volunteers assist the event staff to coordinate the competition and brackets that guide the event.

Qualifications:

- Experience with 9 Ball/Pool would be very helpful, but is not a requirement.
- Volunteer must be able to stand, bend, and be on their feet for several hours at a time.

AIR RIFLE / AIR PISTOL

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Air Rifle and Air Pistol competitors shoot from a seated prone position at tables from a distance of 10m to targets. Sessions are conducted over multiple days to allow for the significant number of Veterans to participate. Sessions typically last about 2 hours. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Assist with setting up and breaking down event.

- Checking out equipment.
- Assisting range master with safety.
- Registering competitors and assigning them to shooting lanes.
- Directly assisting Veterans during the competition.
- Assisting with data management and other official needs during the competition.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of gun range safety is helpful.
- Prior history handling firearms is recommended.
- Be comfortable around shooting sports.

ARCHERY

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Archery competitors shoot at a seated prone position at tables from a distance of 18m to targets. Sessions are conducted over multiple days to allow for the significant number of Veterans to participate. Sessions typically last about 2 hours. Duties include but not limited to:

- Assist with setting up and breaking down event.
- Checking out Equipment.
- Locating and retrieving arrows.
- Assisting with scorekeeping.
- Assisting range master with safety.
- Registering competitors and assigning them to shooting lanes.
- Directly assisting Veterans during the competition.
- Assisting with data management and other official needs during the competition.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of archery and range safety is helpful.

BASKETBALL

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: Basketball is an action-packed sport with lots of thrills for both competitors and spectators. The NVWG Wheelchair Basketball Tournament is an 8-Team Bracket held over several sessions and days. Sessions will range from 2-3 hours. Onsite training and supervision by NVWG Event Officials will be available. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Checking in competitors.
- Keeping stats and/or operating the court scoreboard during the games.
- Running water stations and generally assisting teams.
- Helping to set up and break down the event.

- Assisting NVWG Basketball Officials in various tasks such as assisting Veterans back in their wheelchairs if a fall occurs.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of basketball is helpful.
- If asked to help courtside, be able to bend and lift Veterans back into Sports chairs.
- Ability to keep up with fast-paced action on court.
- Effective communication skills and ability to be on your feet for a few hours at a time.

FISHING

Site / Place: A NVWG Event Hotel will serve as the location for the preliminary partner pairing/banquet the night before event. Location of the Fishing Event will be determined. Volunteers supporting the event will need to bring appropriate clothing for the weather.

Duties – Veterans will participate in bank fishing with a 10 fish limit. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Unhooking and weighing fish.
- Walking with fish to weigh station and back to angler.
- Assisting with bait and casting.
- Carrying Veteran equipment.
- Assisting with the set-up and break-down of the event.
- Providing general assistance to Veterans and event staff with miscellaneous needs.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers will need to tolerate heat and weather during the event for long hours. Shade, water, and snacks will be provided.
- Some roles may require lifting greater than 30lbs.

BOCCIA

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: Boccia is an exciting paralympic sport for competitors and spectators. The principal duties include, but are not limited are:

- Assisting event staff registering competitors, managing the competitive brackets, and generally assisting with operation needs as necessary.
- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of Boccia venue.
- Assisting NVWG Event officials with timing and scoring competitions.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Boccia is helpful, but training will be provided.

BOWLING

Site / Place: A community bowling venue will be used for this event. A single location is preferred but multiple bowling lanes may need to be acquired. Volunteers need to pay attention to the location they are assigned.

Duties – Bowlers compete in a total score of three games. Some Veterans use special equipment that enables them to throw the bowling ball down the lane. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with back-up scoring and keeping stats.
- Helping with the set-up and breakdown of the venue.
- Checking in Veterans and giving lane assignments.
- Helping NVWG Officials and/or Veterans as needed.
- Checking in/out equipment as necessary.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Bowling is helpful.
- Larger groups and Bowling leagues are a great resource of volunteers.

CORNHOLE

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties - Cornhole is a game that involves trying to toss bean bags into a 6-inch hole cut into a board from a distance. The goal of the game is to score points by either landing a bag on the board (one point) or putting the bag in the hole (three points). Volunteer Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting event staff registering competitors, managing the competitive brackets, and generally assisting in operation needs as necessary.
- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of Cornhole venue.
- Assisting NVWG Event officials with timing and scoring competitions.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Cornhole not required. Training is provided for assigned tasks.
- Able to move and bend to lift light objects off the ground.
- Sessions can go long; volunteers must be able to bend and squat for extended periods of time.

CYCLING

Site / Place: Designated park or venue in host community.

Duties – This 5K and 10K course is a popular cycling event designed to test both speed and endurance for Veterans. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of Cycling Venue.
- Registering competitors and providing daily race information and instructions.

- Helping Veterans set up their bikes and prepare for the race as needed.
- Supporting the NVWG Event Officials as needed.
- Serving as route officials communicating concerns, including road safety issues, to NVWG Event Officials from your assigned area.
- Handing out water and snacks to Veterans.
- Helping NVWG Event Officials to organize Veterans for the race start and finish line management.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of cycling helpful, but not required.
- Bike mechanics are needed.
- Ability to tolerate weather and long periods of standing.
- Good communication skills are helpful.

DISC GOLF

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Also known as frisbee golf, this is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc to a target. Played similar to golf, the goal is to complete the course using the fewest possible throws. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of Disc Golf venue.
- Registering competitors and providing event info as directed.
- Assisting NVWG Event Officials with keeping stats, scores, and other duties as assigned.
- Serving as course marshals helping to keep scores.
- Assisting Veterans during the event and retrieving discs.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers need to be able to stand, bend, and lift for extended periods.
- Volunteers should be able to retrieve items from the floor easily and repeatedly.

E-SPORTS

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – E-sports, short for electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games. E-sports often takes the form of organized, multiplayer video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually, or as teams. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of the E-Sports venue.
- Assisting NVWG Event Officials as necessary.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of E-Sports, preferred, but not required. Training provided for assigned tasks.

FIELD EVENTS

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Athletes will compete in javelin, shot put, discus, or club. Each competitor's score is decided by the best distance out of three throws from a stationary point. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with setting up and breaking down the Field Event Venue.
- Registering competitors.
- Keeping scores, stats, and other responsibilities as directed by NVWG Event Officials.
- Assisting at Field Event throwing pits measuring distances, retrieving equipment, strapping wheelchairs, helping athletes transfer to throwing chairs, and distributing the equipment.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers need to be able to be on their feet, outside, bending/lifting for long periods.
- Volunteers must be able to bend and retrieve objects off the ground repeatedly.
- Volunteers must be able to lift 16lbs.

FIELD EVENT LIFTERS

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Assist Veterans transferring from their wheelchair to an elevated throwing stand and back to the wheelchair following their throws. This will be accomplished as a team, supervised by a VA therapist.

Qualifications:

- Must be physically fit and able to lift greater than 35lbs. No lifts will be done individually but rather as a team. In this method, weight will be distributed.

PICKLEBALL

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Pickleball is highly popular across the United States and one of the most exciting events at the NVWG. Played as doubles, Veterans compete in the NVWG tournament demonstrating incredible wheelchair skills and grit until the champions are crowned! Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting the set-up and breakdown of the Pickleball Venue

- Checking Veterans in and assisting NVWG Event Officials with managing event as necessary.
- Keeping score.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers need to be able to stand, bend and pick up balls off the ground for long periods of time.
- Knowledge of sport preferred but not necessary.

POWERLIFTING:

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Veterans compete by experience, age, and weight class in the Bench Press or Seated Deadlift. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of the Powerlifting Event.
- Helping check-in athletes and assigning them to benches.
- Assisting Veterans and NVWG Event Officials as needed.
- Assisting at the benches that could include racking the weights or assisting the Veteran transferring to the bench.
- Keeping scores of lifts and other stats.
- Cleaning benches and equipment.
- Distributing water to competitors.
- Safety spotting for lifts.

Qualifications:

- Volunteers assisting with spotting lifts, transfers, or assisting at the bench must be able to lift 45lbs.

POWERLIFTING LIFTERS:

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – Assist Veterans transferring from their wheelchair to the Powerlifting Bench and back to the wheelchair following their lift. This will be accomplished as a team, supervised by a VA therapist.

Qualifications:

- Must be physically fit and able to lift greater than 35lbs. No lifts will be done individually but rather as a team. In this method, weight will be distributed.

POWER SOCCER

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties – This paralympic sport is a unique event where Veterans in power wheelchairs compete in a soccer like competition on a basketball sized court using an 18-inch diameter ball. Using their specialized buckets to protect their feet, Veterans use their power wheelchairs (at speed) to hit/slam the ball through the opponent’s goal while the opposing team uses their power wheelchairs to prevent the score! The NVWG Power Soccer is an 8-Team Tournament run over several days and sessions. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Helping to set-up and break down the event.
- Checking in competitors.
- Keeping stats.
- Operating the court scoreboard during the games.
- Running water stations and generally assisting teams.

Qualifications:

- If asked to help courtside, be able to bend and chase soccer balls that go off the court.
- Ability to keep up with fast-paced action on court.
- Effective communication skills and ability to be on your feet for a few hours at a time.

POWER SOCCER – MECHANICS

Duties – Before each game, Veterans from both teams need assistance to have the protective buckets attached to the front of their Power Wheelchairs. This includes selecting the correct size of attachments based on the wheelchair specifics and then attaching the nuts and bolts to safely secure the bucket.

- Multiple shifts are needed.
- Installing Power Soccer buckets before and taking off after games.

Qualifications:

- The process is easily taught, but prior mechanical experience using tools is helpful.
- Be able to bend and work from the ground for 1-2 hours.
- Patience and problem solving is helpful.

The RALLY

Site / Place: At a designated location in host communities: The wheelchair rally will take place at a local spot of historical or significant point of interest in the host community. The rally is similar to a poker run. Participants receive a map and set of instructions at the NVWG Registration that they must study in order to answer local trivia question along the way that is part of the competition. Duties of Volunteers include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set-up and breakdown of The Rally Venue
- Assisting officials and venue coordinator with various tasks.
- Supporting check point stations and supporting the task assigned at that station.
- Assisting Veterans through course

- Helping organize and coordinate the athletes at start and finish.
- Registering and Checking-in athletes as they arrive.
- Collecting rally sheets at completion of event and tallying scores.

Qualifications:

- Must be able to walk one mile course as escorts with possible heat precautions.

SLALOM

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: This riveting athletic event pits individual competitors against what seems to be a mission impossible obstacle course. Competitors must use all their skills of wheeling, maneuvering, and muscling through this obstacle course of ramps, raised bridges, rough surfaces and other challenging barriers – all while a clock is running. Slalom is a test of agility, strength, skill and speed. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Helping set-up and breakdown the Slalom event/course.
- Assisting Veteran and NVWG Event Officials as needed.
- Checking Veterans in to the event.
- Serving as timers, score keepers, and course marshals.
- Replacing course elements between competitors.

Qualifications:

- Good Logistics skills needed.
- Able to bend and lift light objects off the floor.
- Able to stand for a 2-3 hours.
- If assisting with set-up and breakdown, need to be able to lift greater than 30lbs.

SOFTBALL

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: Wheelchair softball is played on a hard surface with a 16-inch ball. The NVWG plays an 8-Team tournament that concludes with medal games and an All-Star competition. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with the set-up and breakdown of the Softball Venue.
- Helping Veterans and NVWG Softball Officials as needed.
- Supporting the Softball operations such as checking Veterans in, assisting with putting braces under wheelchairs at the batter’s box, keeping the scorebook, announcing Games, and running the scoreboard.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge and experience with softball or baseball would be ideal, but not mandatory.

- Will need to be standing and active, bending/reaching, throughout the game (75-minutes).
- Positive communication skills.

SWIMMING

Site / Place: Swimming venue in the host community

Duties – Veterans compete in competitions of Breaststroke, Backstroke, Freestyle and Butterfly by experience, level of injury, and at multiple distances. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with the set-up and breakdown of the Swimming Venue.
- Assisting Veterans and NVWG Event Officials as needed.
- Signing Veterans in and helping with event staging.
- Handing out materials, towels, water, etc.
- Supporting the swim operations as a timer, statistician, etc.
- Moving Veterans wheelchairs to the finish area.

Qualifications:

- Prior swim meet support could be helpful for the swim meet coordination tasks.
- Tolerance for working in hot and humid pool area.
- Ability to keep up a fast pace in a noisy environment.

SWIMMING – LIFTERS

Duties – Teams of 6-12 people are needed to assist Veterans in out of the pool. The teams will be trained and supervised by VA therapists experienced with the NVWG Swimming Event and pool entry/exit process. This will involve getting into the pool. Teams will be rotated out to warm up, but the team will be in the pool perhaps up to 20min at a time.

Qualifications:

- Being able tolerate being in the water up to 20-minute shifts at a time.
- Able to swim and be comfortable in the water.
- Ability to lift overhead, weight will vary between Veterans.
- Lifts are done as a team in sync. Following instruction is critical for success & safety.
- Strong and agile Volunteers are recommended.

TABLE TENNIS

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: The NVWG Table Tennis tournament is a fast paced, action-packed competition. Volunteer roles include but are not limited to:

- Assisting set-up and breakdown of Table Tennis Venue

- Assisting officials and venue coordinator with various tasks such as registration, ball chasers, score keepers, and statistics.
- Judge/scorer needed per table.
- Ball shaggers are needed to pick up loose balls.
- Statistician for head table.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of the sport of Table Tennis is helpful, but not needed.
- Need to be able to bend and lift the balls off the ground.
- Ability to observe scoring.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Site / Place: Host Site Convention Center

Duties: Have you heard of “Murder Ball” or picture demolition derby in a wheelchair? This sport is played on a basketball court with teams of four. The objective is to carry the ball across the opponent’s goal line. Simple, but the other team is going to use every means to stop them, including ramming their wheelchair into the opposition. Yes, this is a sport! Volunteer duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with set up and breakdown of the WC Rugby Venue
- Checking in competitors.
- Keeping stats and/or operating the court scoreboard during the games.
- Running water stations and generally assisting teams.
- Assisting NVWG Wheelchair Rugby Officials in various tasks such as helping Veterans back in their wheelchairs if a fall occurs.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of WC Rugby is helpful but not necessary.
- If asked to help courtside, be able to bend and lift Veterans back into Sports chairs.
- Ability to keep up with fast-paced action on court.
- Effective communication skills and ability to be on your feet for a few hours at a time.

Thank you for supporting the NVWG and our Veterans!

