

## **2016 Buckeye Wheelchair Games promotes rehabilitation for veterans with disabilities through rigorous competition**

*The largest annual wheelchair sports competition in Ohio, this event offers sports competition to Veterans who use wheelchairs due to spinal cord injuries, amputations and neurological diseases.*

The annual Buckeye Wheelchair Games, scheduled for April 29-30, 2016 at the SPIRE Institute, promote rehabilitation for Veterans through rigorous competition in events such as air guns, archery, bowling, field events, billiards, slalom, swimming, table tennis, track, bocce and weightlifting. The SPIRE Institute is located at 5201 Spire Circle in Geneva, Ohio.

The purpose of the Buckeye Wheelchair Games is to provide Veterans with physical disabilities an introductory experience to a variety of wheelchair sports and recreation activities. In doing so, the Games serve to encourage Veterans to become aware of their abilities and potential while promoting a spirit of healthy camaraderie and the therapeutic value of sports competition.

The Cleveland VA Medical Center is committed to working closely with the Paralyzed Veterans of America - Buckeye Chapter to improve the quality of life for Veterans with disabilities and foster better health through sports competition. The event also provides opportunities for newly injured Veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other athletes who use wheelchairs.

The Games' Sponsors include M.C. Mobility Systems, Inc., Quicken Loans, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America – Buckeye Chapter.

The community is encouraged to attend, including media, elected officials, Veteran Service Organization leaders, and volunteers.

An awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. where athletes will receive medals for the competition.

**News media is invited to attend for photo-ops and interviews with athletes and key leadership of the sponsoring organizations.**

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