



OPERATION TRACKSHOES

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Counsellor Recruitment (250) 721-4932
Competitor Registration (250) 472-6270

General Inquiries (250) 721-2233
Fax (toll free) 1-888-317-2826

Hello!

We extend an invitation to participate in Operation Trackshoes. This unique sports festival for people with developmental disabilities is celebrating its 42nd 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 8 to Sunday June 10, 2012 on your calendar now. Participants of any age (generally not younger than 6 years old) up to older adults are welcome. Competitors participate against others their own age and overnight participants are housed according to age.

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.

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.

There are two registration packages at Operation Trackshoes:

1. The Overnight Package. The fees this year for overnight competitors will be \$230 and for overnight coaches will be \$180. This includes meals and accommodation from Friday supper to Sunday lunch. *Local competitors may also purchase this package.*
2. The Day Package. Competitors participate at the university during the day and evening, and then spend the night off campus. Day competitors will pay \$40. This includes supper Friday (coaches can purchase the Friday supper for \$15). Breakfast tickets and Sunday lunch tickets can be purchased for \$10 each). The Saturday bag lunches are distributed to all at the stadium for no charge.

Please note:

- There will probably be more competitors applying for each package than we will have spaces. Therefore please contact us as soon as possible to get on our mailing list.
- 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.

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.

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.

If you are aware of any interested person or group not on our mailing list, please have them contact us. Individuals who are unable to participate with a recognized group may come either as independents or band together and form their own group.

For further information, contact our registrar Cathy Macauley at info@trackshoes.ca or at 250-472-6270. Email will probably get through to her faster as our phone lines are only for the purposes of leaving messages - at this time of year we are not checking them too frequently.

We hope to see you at OT 2012.

Judith Armstrong
Co-President

Nick Marsden
Co-President