

SPORTSABILITY ALLIANCE

Annual Report 2022



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SportsAbility Alliance

Mission

To enrich lives through accessible inclusive recreation for all

SportsAbility Alliance’s goal is to advocate, educate, motivate and provide support for physical activity to achieve benefits in the following areas:

- **Developmental**
- **Healing**
- **Physical and Mental Wellness**
- **Vocational and Economic**
- **Societal**



To Our Members



Dear members and partners,

This has been a beautiful year! We were able to start back to in person programs and continue some of the most popular of our online and virtual reality programs. Seeing the smiles on our athletes' faces as they were able to play team sports and pursue recreation of all kinds, made all the work behind the scenes more than worthwhile!

A giant thank you goes out to our sponsors for sticking with us through these challenging times of hybrid events. Without our partners and volunteers, none of the programs would have been possible. These longtime relationships and new partner relationships have been critical to developing the physical and mental wellness of our athletes.

Importantly, I would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Fran Gilbert. She comes with a wealth of experience, and we are extremely lucky to have her. After 20 years of my life and my heart into SportsAbility Alliance, I feel confident that the organization will be in very good hands and that she will take it to the next level.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Gussak", written in a cursive style.

Laurie LoRe-Gussak, MBA, IOM, CAE
Executive Director

Message from Our Founder

SportsAbility Alliance is a very unique nonprofit organization. We have been very successful in our mission and have made quite a difference in the lives of people with disabilities of all ages and, just as important, have also touched the lives of many families, friends, as well as our entire community.



This report shares some of our program efforts and results. What it does not reflect is the enormous impact that we have had with our year round advocacy efforts. We are continuously working to inform people with and without disabilities about the need and benefits of recreation and active leisure. Our advocacy work helps to motivate and inspire people of all ages and abilities to participate and enjoy the many benefits of these activities. There is even a bigger return on our investments in our educational efforts. We assist other organizations and providers of health, recreation and leisure services with their inclusion of people with disabilities. These partnerships and collaborations have had a tremendous effect on the common goal of societal inclusion.

Active Leisure for Life!

David Jones
Founder

Programs



SportsAbility enhances the lives of people with disabilities by promoting active living and providing first-hand access to resources and activities designed to encourage participation regardless of age or ability level.



In 2022, there were multiple ways to experience SportsAbility at NO CHARGE. Almost 11,000 people attended the following programs:

- In-Person: In cities throughout Florida, a variety of different in-person activities for people of all abilities were held.
- Online Education and Resource Expo: Educational presentations and an online Resource Expo provided content for providers and consumers to learn about adaptive inclusive recreation.
- Virtual Reality (VR): VR SportsAbility Park is available year-round and 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Fitness Fridays: Live workouts were held weekly on the SportsAbility Alliance Facebook page.
- SportsAbility Sampler at the Family Café – Recreation was provided including SCUBA, tennis, archery and more and education on a variety of topics including recreation in Virtual Reality.
- 21 SportsAbility Sampler programs were offered around the state that included SCUBA, fishing, horseback riding, sit water-skiing, archery, adaptive boating and more.

Participants of all abilities learn about the value of recreation and active leisure for everyone – especially people with disabilities. People discover the latest in equipment, trends, and resources.

- More than \$150,000 of volunteer help and training was donated.
- Over 35 community organizations partnered on the programs.





Miracle Sports in partnership with the City of Tallahassee provides Access to Athletics for people of all abilities. Games are adapted so that anyone can participate and be successful. The majority of our seasons are played on the Miracle Field, in Messer Park; this field provides a barrier free arena. Our game days are rich, inclusive environments where people of all abilities play together and encourage one another.

- Over 550 hours of team sports were played year-round and available to the community.
- Volunteer hours valued at more \$25,000.
- Miracle Sports partnered with Florida State University (FSU) Sport Management Service Learning Program with over 150 students and Seminole Athletics for programming.
- Miracle Sports has a valuable, long standing partnership with the Kiwanis Clubs of Big Bend.





This program, funded by the Florida Department of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, provides an education and resource referral to assist people with brain and spinal cord injuries in pursuing recreation and leisure and related assistive services and technologies.

- SportsAbility Alliance provided over 25 outreach programs on the needs and benefits of physical activity and resources and recreation activities for individuals with a brain injury or spinal cord injury.
- Training sessions and in-service programs were provided to healthcare and recreation professionals across Florida throughout the year educating on to assist people with a brain or spinal cord injury in accessing recreation and leisure to improve physical and mental well-being.
- The iFind Recreation Resource Online Database was completely restructured to provide improved functionality to search for accessible inclusive recreation programs, events, destinations and products. The database may be searched by type of activity or county.
- A quarterly e-newsletter provided information and resources on accessible inclusive recreation opportunities to over 9,000 people quarterly.



An outdoor adventure program for people with disabilities. This program includes the mobility impaired hunting program, which includes over 20 mobility impaired hunts in Florida with over 2,000 certified mobility impaired participants. The program also includes a variety of other outdoor adventure trips.

Our programs and partnerships in outdoor recreation opportunities have enabled participation of people with disabilities in many outdoor, nature based excursions and adventures. Our partnerships with EcoRover chairs and Bird Dog Boats have allowed us to help many new participants enjoy the outdoors. We have been awarded several grants from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida that have enabled us to conduct outreach demonstrations and adventures with this new assistive technology. It has also allowed us to provide promotion and participation in hunting and shooting sports and other nature based recreation experiences on beaches and trails.

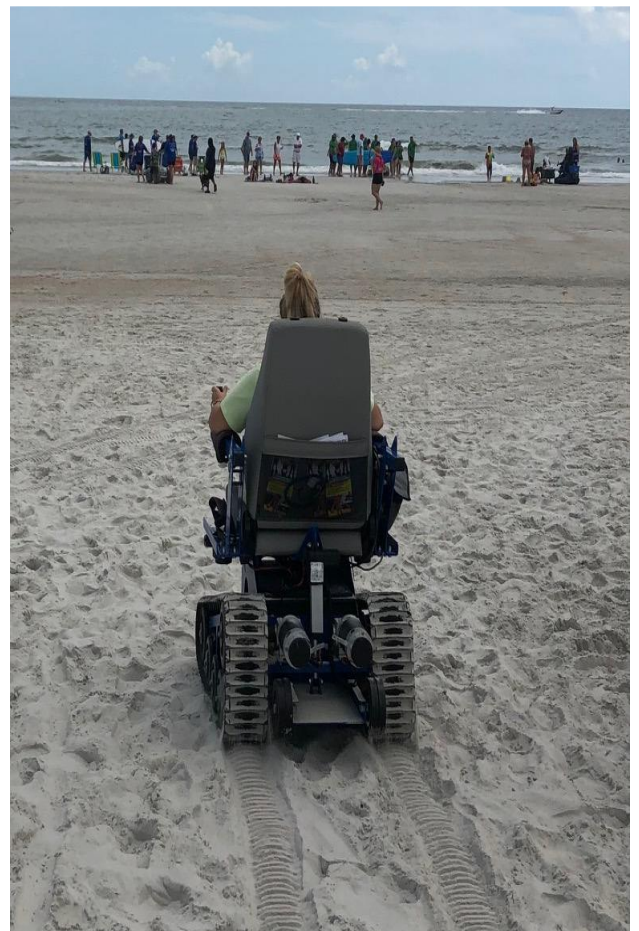


This past year we provided numerous EcoRover adventures throughout the entire state and have started our adventure program development, partnering with other providers to create many more collaborative opportunities. Through our partnerships and funding through Move United grants, we have been able to expand our ALLOUT Adventures

program and reach people with mobility limitations, along with family and friends. We have also given numerous boating and fishing adventures on the totally wheelchair accessible Bird Dog Boat.

We are also happy to have continued our long running relationship with the Nutrien Mining Company. SportsAbility Alliance guests enjoyed our 24th Annual Invitational Hunting and Outdoor event near White Springs Florida, with their leadership and staff that hosted the 2-weekend event of deer hunting, fun and fantastic meals. We get to enjoy the efforts of their great environmental work and reclaiming the land so that it provides excellent habitat for wildlife and recreation for citizens. They have even renovated the old original Morgan Farmhouse into a very comfortable and accessible lodging facility for our guests with disabilities and other visitors.

- We have continued our annual Hands Helping Anglers event and our partnership with local rotary clubs to provide a fun day of saltwater fishing with volunteer boat captains in the Appalachia Bay area.
- Over 100 people participated in the Annual Nutrien / SportsAbility Alliance Adventure Weekend and Hunt at Morgan Farm in North Florida.
- Numerous other fishing, hunting, water sport and beach adventures were held throughout Florida.
- We completed over 40 outreach events during the year.

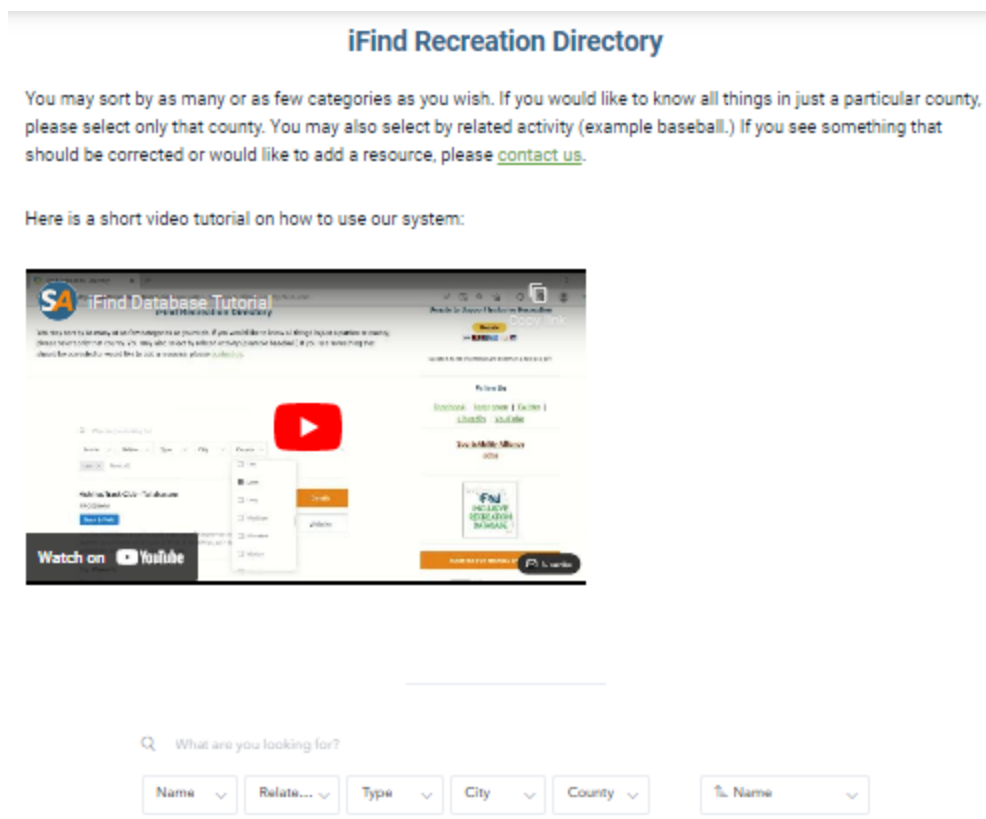


Resource Referral Network

SportsAbility Alliance maintains a Resource Referral Network of accessible inclusive programs and services, products, destinations and events. The database is accessible electronically at fdoa.org/resources. It is searchable by county or type of resource.

The database is a virtual liaison between providers and participants helping people of all abilities find the providers that meet their area of interest. The database currently has approximately 1,500 resources across Florida and beyond.

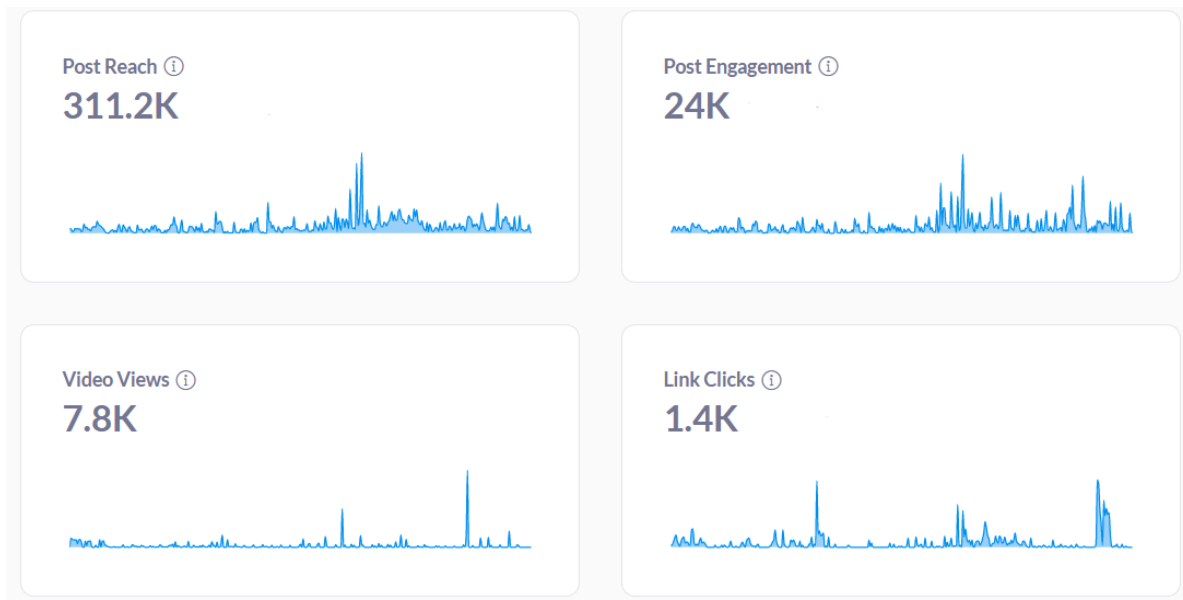
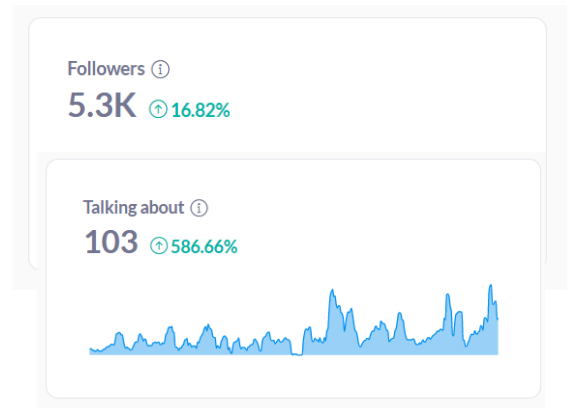
We have revamped the database, are contacting program providers and updating as we go. A tutorial video was created and added to teach people how to utilize the database.



Social Media and Website

SportsAbility Alliance has social media accounts across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

- Over the past year, we have increased our following 16.82%, up to 5,300 followers across all platforms.
- We have also seen a huge increase (586%) in engagement from our followers over the past year.
- Our social media posts have reached over 310,000 users.



Return on Investment

We leverage revenues to fulfill our mission. With an annual budget of \$240,000 from grants, state contracts, business sponsorships and donations; we are able to accomplish significant outcomes.

- We fostered a healthier, happier, more productive and inclusive society that produced cost savings for everyone.
- We deliver meaningful education and advocacy to the community.
- We strengthen the community through partnerships and collaborations.
- We supplement our funding sources with donated goods and services and utilizing the power of volunteers and student involvement.



Board of Directors / Advisory Board

Board of Directors

David C. Jones, Founder & Past President

Gordon Palmer, President

Kristy Carter, Vice President

Ned Campbell, Treasurer

Bliss Wilson, Secretary

George Coaker, Director at Large

Jeff Douglas, Director at Large



Advisory Board

Michael Isaacson

Bill Redmon

Curtis Richardson

Sheila Williams

Partners

SportsAbility Alliance gratefully thanks these partners and all of our

other important contributors.



Certified Public Accountants



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