

Celebrating 35 years!

SPORTSABILITY

1990-2025 ALLIANCE

formerly Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

Annual Report

2025



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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,

It's hard to believe that in 2025 Tallahassee had snow in January and a quiet summer hurricane season! SportsAbility Alliance took these unusual weather occurrences in stride and had a great year! Miracle Sports athletes enjoyed baseball, kickball, and tennis.

In April, nearly 900 people participated in our 2-day SportsAbility Expo in Tallahassee; an event filled with accessible and inclusive activities, information, food and fun. In June, SportsAbility Alliance staff once again attended the Family Café in Orlando, where our activity partners provided information and lots of opportunities to participate in recreational activities; and we conducted an educational session, "Exploring New Technologies, Building Partnerships and Removing Barriers: Creating Opportunities for Recreation for People of ALL Abilities." And, of course, we held the duck race which is always a crowd-favorite.

In 2025, we continued our outreach programs that help us highlight all our programs and resources to a wide audience. Outreach programs included the ADA Expo in Jacksonville, the ESE Family Resource Expo in Tallahassee, the Northwest Florida Disability Conference in Panama City, a Florida Greenways and Trails Expo in Tallahassee, and the Florida Recreation and Park Association Conference and the National Recreation and Park Association, both in Orlando. We also conducted an Outdoor Florida Webinar, presented to FSU Sports Management classes, volunteered at an Adventure Run at Independence Landing in Tallahassee, and partnered with state and local agencies, organizations and service clubs, to advocate, connect, educate, and share information and resources.

We are only able to offer these and other programs because of the hard work of our board members, staff, interns, and volunteers, and the generosity of our partners, donors, and sponsors. Everyone's contribution is essential to the success of the SportsAbility Alliance and our Programs. This 2025 Annual Report details some of what we have achieved this year as we continue to strive to achieve our message of Active Leisure for Life!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fran M. Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Gilbert, CAE
Executive Director

Sharing the Impact: A Testimonial

At SportsAbility Alliance, our mission is to enrich lives through accessible, inclusive recreation and active leisure. We believe everyone deserves the chance to participate, connect and thrive, and one of the most powerful ways to see that mission in action is through the stories of the participants and families we serve.

We are honored to share this testimonial about one of our athletes and SportsAbility participants, Michael Riley, highlighting the meaningful difference our programs have made in his life. Michael eagerly anticipates Thursday evening Miracle Sports activities and begins talking about SportsAbility events months in advance. His excitement for sports and outdoor activities, along with the friendships he builds along the way, perfectly reflects the joy, confidence and sense of community that SportsAbility Alliance strives to create.

“Michael has always enjoyed playing all types of sports. He looks forward to the Thursday evenings Miracle Sports activities and starts talking about SportsAbility six months ahead of time! He really enjoys participating in outdoor activities with his friends and volunteers and meeting different people that become his friends. As his parents, we enjoy seeing how much he loves participating in the many activities that Miracle Sports and SportsAbility have to offer.”

Michael’s story reminds us why SportsAbility Alliance exists: to create experiences that enrich lives and enable everyone to participate in recreational activities!



Programs

SPORTSABILITY EXPO

SportsAbility Alliance enriches lives of people with disabilities through accessible, inclusive recreation and active leisure. We provide hands-on access to resources and activities designed to encourage participation for individuals of all ages and all abilities.



In 2025, SportsAbility programs were once again offered as in-person events and activities, and more than 15,000 people attended the following programs:

- **SportsAbility Expo 2025:** More than 900 people attended our 2-day SportsAbility Expo event which included a resource expo and indoor activities at Tallahassee State College, and a day of outdoor fun at Maclay Gardens State Park, a 38% increase in attendance from the previous year.
- **SportsAbility Sampler at the Family Café:** More than 14,600 attendees, vendors, and service providers took part in the 2025 Family Café in Orlando, FL. Our partners provided numerous hands-on activities, including tennis, SCUBA, archery and target games. Resource providers offered information on adaptive water-skiing, EcoRovers, accessible boating and more! In addition to the samplers and resources, GatorLand hosted live animal demonstrations.



- **Fitness Fridays:** We continued these weekly live workouts on the SportsAbility Alliance Facebook Page, in partnership with SPIRIT Club.
- **ALLOUT Adventures:** Through grants from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida and Florida Power and Light we increased our EcoRover ALLOUT Beach and Trail Adventure offerings. We provided numerous opportunities for individuals to get out on trails and beaches, enjoy nature and participate in hunting through FWC's mobility-impaired hunts.
- **Hands Helping Anglers:** In September SportsAbility Alliance partnered with Rotary to hold the 36th annual Hands Helping Anglers event. While we did have some last minute cancellations from anglers, we ended up having 40 anglers and 24 captains registered for boating and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico for a very successful event!



Through SportsAbility Alliance programs, participants of all ages and abilities learn about the benefits of recreation and active leisure. People learn about the latest in equipment, trends and resources. In 2025 we completed more than 94 outreach events during the year.

Volunteers and community and activity partners are integral to the success of our programs. In 2025:

- More than \$150,000 of volunteer help and training was donated.
- More than 30 community organizations partnered with SportsAbility Alliance on 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.



- We offered more than 50 opportunities for individuals to participate in Miracle Sports events (Kickball, Baseball and Tennis).
- Volunteer hours valued at more \$25,000.
- Miracle Sports partnered with Florida State University (FSU) Sport Management Service Learning Program with over 150 students.
- Miracle Sports has a valuable, long standing partnership with the Kiwanis Clubs of the Big Bend and they volunteered each week and provided snacks for our athletes.





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.
- A quarterly e-newsletter provided information and resources on accessible inclusive recreation opportunities to over 10,000 people quarterly.

MyNeedsNetwork Partnership for New Resource Database

In 2025, we continued our partnership with MyNeedsNetwork to update this in- depth Resource Database. With this partnership, our members will have access to not only all of the recreation resources we have compiled, but also the additional resources on their site.

The database can be found on:

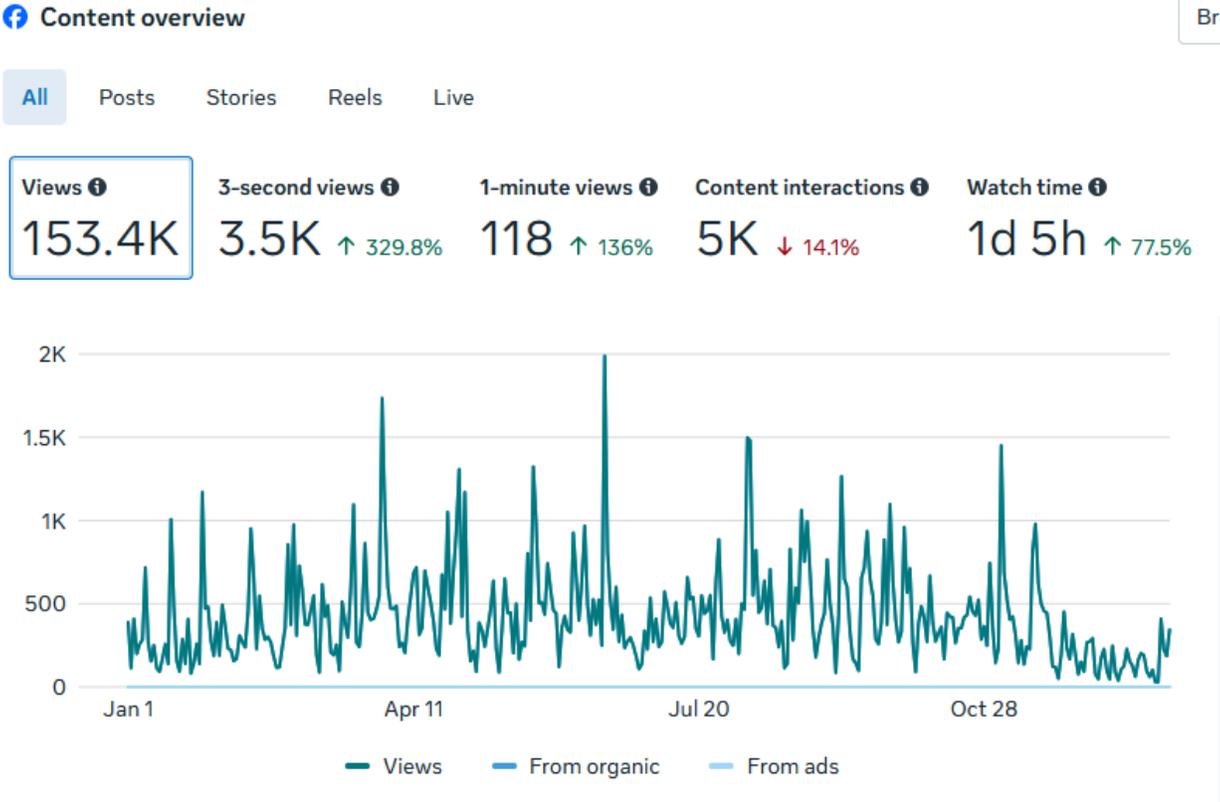
<https://www.mynetwork.org/community-resources-4/recreation-2>. It is a virtual liaison between providers and participants helping people of all abilities find the providers that meet their area of interest.

The screenshot displays the MyNeedsNetwork website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MyNeedsNetwork logo, a search bar, and links for 'Select Language', 'Contact Us', and 'Member Login'. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with options: 'About Us', 'Join', 'Get Involved', 'Search Directory', 'Support / FAQ', 'Contact Us', and 'Resources'. The main content area shows search results for 'Recreation Results - Community Resources'. On the left, there are search filters for 'Find Disability Resources And Networks', 'Specializing in:', and 'Search by location:'. The search results list three featured items: 'Sports Ability' (Tallahassee FL), 'Florida Fish and Wildlife - Website' (Tallahassee FL), and 'Bethesda Park' (Jacksonville FL). Each item includes a brief description, a 'Visit Website' button, and contact information. The 'Sports Ability' entry is highlighted with a green border. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'Brooks | LeBoeuf Foster & Gwartzney ATTORNEYS AT LAW'.

Social Media and Website

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

- We have continued posting on an almost daily basis for 2025, highlighting Motivational Mondays, Fitness Fridays with SPIRIT Club, all our upcoming events and outreach endeavors, as well as highlighting our partners.
- Facebook continues to be our most popular platform with 4,211 followers, which is an additional 256 followers since last year (1.2% increase).
- We have seen huge increases in 4 of the 5 content metrics (views, 3-second views, 1 minute views and watch time), meaning that people are viewing our content and for longer



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 utilize the power of volunteers and student involvement.
- 2025 Grants: City of Tallahassee, Adults with Disabilities, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, REI Foundation Grant, Visit Tallahassee, Autism Services Grant, Move United Grant, Florida Power & Light Next Era Energy Grant



Board of Directors / Advisory Board

2025 Board of Directors

Gordon Palmer, President

Kristy Carter, Vice President

Michael Isaacson, Treasurer

Bliss Wilson, Secretary

David C. Jones, Founder & Past President

George Coaker, Director at Large

Jeff Douglas, Director at Large

2025 Advisory Board

Jackie Lambert

Christina Martin

Ray Pringle

Bill Redmon

Curtis Richardson

Melissa Sims

Partners

SportsAbility Alliance gratefully thanks these partners and all of our other important contributors.



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