

Dear Adaptive Program Leaders, Coaches and Athletes,

The 2015 NYS Winter Empire State Games (ESG) will be held at the Olympic venues in Lake Placid, February 5-8, 2015. Adaptive Alpine events (Slalom and GS Courses – beginner, intermediate and competitive (requires certification) courses at Whiteface Mountain; Nordic events (XC and Biathlon) will be held Mt Van Hoevenburg. Registration is open and complete details of the racing and ceremonies can be found at <https://www.empirestatewintergames.com/>. Adaptive leads the list of categories under the Sports tab. Any of your athletes with qualifying disabilities (spinal cord, visual impairment, amputations, congenital) and all levels of ability are invited to attend and compete in the games and have a wonderful “Olympic” weekend experience in Lake Placid. Alpine athletes at the highest level (certification required) will get a chance to compete with athletes from the National Team (veterans of the Paralympic games in Sochi) who are in town for a certified International Paralympic Committee (IPC) race during ESG 2015.

Advanced registration (<https://www.empirestatewintergames.com/>) is required for all athletes. We have first come first serve athlete rooms available at the Olympic Training Center (OTC) including transportation throughout the weekend of events and activities. We have discount rooms in local accommodations for families/friends. We can share with coaches and program organizers that we have stipends available for athletes in need to help defray the cost of travel/lodging in Lake Placid. You are welcome to contact Howard Horowitz of the ESG Adaptive Committee to coordinate these benefits for adaptive athletes after (or even before) registering to insure your place. Here are the highlights of the Empire States Games weekend for Alpine and Nordic athletes:

Thursday, Feb. 5; 5pm-8pm; Olympic Ice Arena, Lake Placid

Opening Ceremonies and Parade of Athletes

Friday, Feb 6; 9am-4pm (times various): followed by open night on the town, as follows:

Alpine: Open ski, practice and training at the Whiteface venue (discount lift tickets available for purchase)

Nordic: Biathlon and XC Training Camp with Coaches and with Development Athletes training for the National Team from US Paralympics

Saturday, Feb. 7 (times various):

Alpine racing at Whiteface; Nordic XC racing at Mt. Van Hoevenberg.

Saturday, Feb 7, evening. Award ceremonies and open night on the town

Sunday, Feb 8 morning: Nordic Biathlon race and awards ceremony. Departure

We are all set for a great weekend of training, competition and fun here at Empire State Games Adaptive, 2015, an

exciting winter outdoor sport experience. And for your competitive athletes with ambitions in their sport we offer exposure to US Paralympic training, coaches and athletes. All we need now for a successful weekend is your athletes. Please contact us to help coordinate your experience. We strongly encourage you to register and bring/send athletes to participate in the Nordic camp and to compete in the Empire States Games (Feb 5-8, 2015) adaptive races—XC, Biathlon and Alpine (slalom).

Jean Brennan

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www.empirestatewintergames.com