

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: July 2012  
Contact: Cherisse Young, Executive Director  
Phone/Fax: 518-734-5070/518-734-6740  
Email/Web site: cyoung@mhccable.com / www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org



### **The Adaptive Sports Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Project host wounded warriors and their families for a watersports camp August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Burden Lake, New York* - For the fifth year, the Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF) and the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) are hosting a two day "Wounded Warrior" event for injured United States servicemen and women. Through a generous grant from WWP, the ASF will bring 15 severely wounded warriors and their families to Burden Lake located in Rensselaer County, New York to learn how to water-ski, canoe and kayak on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Injuries include amputation, spinal cord injuries, nerve damage, visual impairment, traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder.

Since 2005 the ASF in partnership with WWP has been involved in several sports events that have served wounded warriors. The outcome of these special events is a powerful reminder of the bonds that can be forged through giving back. From the warriors, to the volunteer instructors, to members of the community; everyone involved is positively impacted by the event. Seeing first hand what these young men and women sacrificed for our freedom is often overwhelming for many. Tears are shed as people watch ASF volunteers and the soldiers working together to overcome the adversity created by their injuries. Everyone present witnesses the strength of will it takes for each soldier to conquer their disability and accomplish their goals.

Retired Marine Capitan Chris Ayres and his wife Renee stated, "It was amazing to spend time with our family on the water. The cohesiveness of the volunteers and the way they engaged not only us but our children was amazing. Thanks to ASF and WWP we were able to experience this adventure as a family, something we could never do on our own."

This year's event will include water-skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking, canoeing and other fun water sports such as tubing, swimming and fishing. Over the course of the event, participants will discover that they can still participate in many of the activities they did before their injuries. ASF volunteer instructors will guide soldiers through experiences that will give them the skills to water-ski or paddle and will also help them build their self esteem and self confidence.

Cherisse Young, ASF Executive Director stated, "The Adaptive Sports Foundation is honored to welcome our wounded warriors to Burden Lake, New York. Since upstate New York is known as a great vacation destination for families in the summer, we thought it only fitting that we offer the wounded warriors and their families an opportunity to be able to enjoy a vacation together. It is really wonderful to see these families have a chance to enjoy some recreational time together and discover how to be a family again."

#### About the Adaptive Sports Foundation

The Adaptive Sports Foundation (ASF) through its mission of providing profound and life changing experiences for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities and chronic illness through outdoor physical activity, education, support, and community has served thousands of

individuals and provides 3,200 lessons annually. With a full time staff of seven and 300 volunteers, the ASF has been providing both summer and winter sports in upstate New York for 29 years. The ASF is a non-profit organization whose \$1 million annual budget is funded solely through the private sector. For more information on the Adaptive Sports Foundation, please visit [www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org](http://www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org).

#### About Wounded Warrior Project™

The mission of Wounded Warrior Project™ (WWP) is to honor and empower wounded warriors. WWP's purpose is to raise awareness and to enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. WWP is a national, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. To get involved and learn more, visit [woundedwarriorproject.org](http://woundedwarriorproject.org).

###