



**NATIONAL  
ABILITY  
CENTER**

P.O. Box 682799  
Park City, UT 84068

435.649.3991 p.  
435.658.3992 f.

[www.DiscoverNAC.org](http://www.DiscoverNAC.org)  
[info@DiscoverNAC.org](mailto:info@DiscoverNAC.org)

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## Students Participate in Salt Lake City's 2008 Paralympic Academy

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Davis  
Phone: 435.200.0991  
Email: [julied@DiscoverNAC.org](mailto:julied@DiscoverNAC.org)

Contact: Jeff Burley  
Phone: 801.561.0075  
Email: [jburley@slco.org](mailto:jburley@slco.org)

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Students with physical disabilities, parents, teachers, coaches and program leaders participated in the 2008 Salt Lake City Paralympic Academy today. The event, held at the Salt Lake City Ice Complex and Murray Gym was hosted by The National Ability Center, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation, and U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Two-time Paralympic archery bronze medalist, Jeff Fabry, made a special appearance and welcomed the students. While they participated in sled hockey, wheelchair basketball, quad rugby, archery, and cycling with Paralympic athletes and coaches, the adult participants attended educational sessions on topics including the benefits of Paralympic sports, availability of local programming, fostering independence, and Paralympic coaching techniques.

"This was the best Paralympic Academy we have ever hosted," said Meeche White, CEO of the National Ability Center. "We are excited to see so many families learning about these adaptive opportunities."

This year's event had many individuals and families who had not previously participated with organizations which hosted the Paralympic Academy. Some of them signed up to participate in programs after testing different sports. With the 2008 Paralympic Games being held this summer in Beijing, there is sure to be a continued increase in participation in and awareness of all these programs for people with physical disabilities.

The Salt Lake City 2008 Paralympic Academy is one of 50 Paralympic Academies being held throughout the country this year.

#### About The National Ability Center

The National Ability Center is a non-profit organization that provides recreational and therapeutic activities for people of all ages and abilities. The Ability Center offers more than twenty programs throughout the year.

#### About Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation is pleased to partner with the National Ability Center. SLCO Parks and Recreation Adaptive Recreation is about providing recreational opportunities for individuals with special needs.



#### About U.S. Paralympics:

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and to promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities. Visit them at [www.usparalympics.org](http://www.usparalympics.org).

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