



## Above & Beyond

Volume 5, Edition 1  
A monthly publication from RISE Adventures, Inc.

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## Feb. 1st 2011 Issue!

- [Kickin' off the Summer Bash II](#)
- [Program Schedule](#)
- [Staff Update](#)
- [Saying goodbye to Spencer Larimore](#)
- [Thanks to RISE from Spencer Larimore](#)

## RISE Kickin' off Summer Bash II

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
[Meadowmere Park, Grapevine, Texas](#)

Sponsored by  
[Grapevine Parks and Recreation](#)  
C & R Medical Supplies and Lift-Aids, Inc.

Event Details: Participate in all RISE programs at one location on the same day. Advocacy, Airplane Rides, Boating, Children's Camping, Adult Camping, Collaboration, Fishing, Golf, Hand Cycling, Hunting, Jet Skiing, Kayaking, Photography, Rugby, Beginner Sailing, Advanced Sailing, Tubing, Seasonal, Scuba, Swimming, Water Skiing, and much more including Face Painting, Climbing Wall, Petting Zoo, Live Music on the C & R Medical Music Stage, plus free hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks at the Grapevine Parks Food Court. You can also visit the numerous collaborative partners and sponsor exhibits.

The event and food are FREE for participants, family members, and friends!

For information on Sponsor Opportunities contact Julie Saeger at [jsaeger@riseadventures.org](mailto:jsaeger@riseadventures.org) or (817) 909-3750.

For Collaborative Partner booth information contact Paul Gray at [pgray@riseadventures.org](mailto:pgray@riseadventures.org) or (469) 762-5075.

For Volunteer Opportunities contact Annette Brauer at [abrauer@riseadventures.org](mailto:abrauer@riseadventures.org) or (972) 978.8903.

## 2011 Program Schedule

Over the winter we worked 24/7 to establish our 2011 Program Schedule. We listened to our constituency and addressed their questions:

### **Why are RISE program locations spread out all over the Metroplex?**

All disability organizations struggle finding locations to hold their programs. RISE is diligently working with a few municipalities to find the best fit to consolidate our programs. Working with city governments is an arduous process. Securing a dedicated location for all RISE programs is a major priority in 2011.

### **Does RISE have program locations with cost effective, accessible public transportation?**

Programs in Dallas and Irving are on DART Paratransit. Irving is on DART Paratransit, TRE, and later this year will be on the DART Rail Orange Line. RISE has a great partnership with the City of Grapevine but public transportation is not currently available.

### **What is RISE's 2011 schedule?**

This year RISE will have over 20 on-going programs with over 800 available program dates. During the warmer months, many programs will be available 7 days a week. If you want to stay active through these last few weeks of winter, check out RISE's Friday night rugby program. As with all RISE programs, rugby is open to all ages and levels of physical disabilities. It's a fast paced, high intensity work-out!

### **Does RISE have an online program reservation system?**

Effective March 1st reservations can be made with 48 hours advanced notice by [going to our website](#), clicking on the [Calendar](#), selecting the program and date, and filing out the reservation form. A confirmation will be emailed upon receipt of the reservation. Reservations are requested to ensure volunteers and equipment are available. RISE will still maintain our phone reservations and information by contacting Annette Brauer at [abrauer@riseadventures.org](mailto:abrauer@riseadventures.org) or (972) 978.8903.

### **What free programs will be available this year?**

All RISE programs and events are FREE for persons with physical disabilities, family members, and friends. RISE furnishes all adaptive equipment and instruction for our 2011 therapeutic and recreational programs; Advocacy, Airplane Rides, Boating, Children's Camping, Adult Camping, Collaboration, Fishing, Golf, Hand Cycling, Hunting, Jet Skiing, Kayaking, Photography, Rugby, Beginner Sailing, Advanced Sailing, Tubing, Seasonal, Scuba, Swimming, and Water Skiing. Additional programs are under development.

### **What major events is RISE hosting this year?**

RISE hosted a major USQRA Quad Rugby Tournament, January 14-16, 2011. Check out the [final scores and pictures](#)! Additional 2011 dates include:

- RISE 3rd Annual Kickin' off the Summer Bash, May 7th - Meadowmere Park, Grapevine, Texas
- Water Sports Picnic's - Six Collaborative events scheduled, (location to be determined)
- RISE 7th Annual End of Summer Bash - September 25-26th (this year a two day event)
- Golf Fundraiser and Gala (locations and dates to be determined)

### **How do I volunteer for RISE?**

RISE operates 100% with volunteers and has no paid staff. This year we have a major need for more volunteers. A complete schedule of volunteer opportunities for 2011 will be available March 1st. If you are interested in helping RISE accomplish our very important mission please [visit our website](#), click [JOIN RISE](#), then click [I'M A VOLUNTEER](#) or contact Annette Brauer at [abrauer@riseadventures.org](mailto:abrauer@riseadventures.org) or (972) 978.8903.

### **How does RISE provide all of these programs and services for Free?**

RISE is able to offer all programs free of charge because of our corporate sponsors. [C & R Medical](#) is a supplier for urological and medical supplies. [Lift Aids, Inc.](#) modifies vehicles for driving and transportation needs as well as supplies lifts to eliminate architectural barriers (residential and commercial applications). RISE would appreciate your support by doing business with our sponsors.

## **2011 Staff Summary**

**Paul Gray** - As the full time volunteer CEO of RISE I will no longer be involved with programs or daily operations. The RISE 1-3 year Strategic Business Plan is my new focus which includes:

1. Solidifying Permanent Program Locations
2. Acquiring or constructing a building with gymnasiums

- including a Neuro-Fitness Center and RISE Offices.
3. Developing a strategic plan to construct a large, all encompassing disability center and capital fundraising campaign plan.
  4. Work with our current sponsors, acquiring new major partner/sponsors, and continuing to develop new collaborative partners.

**Mike Peters** came aboard as the full time volunteer Vice President of Operations. Mike has participated in all RISE Programs and has been instrumental in our growth. His 2011 initiatives are:

1. Establish consistency with all volunteer Program Managers in delivery of every program and provide program oversight.
2. Develop and implement a "Code of Conduct" that staff, volunteers, and participants will abide by at every program.
3. Implement RISE Adventures Metrics (RAM), our major research project. This data will be used for setting participant goals and objectives as well as testing the efficiency of program service delivery.
4. Continue to grow Outreach, Advocacy, and Collaborative Partner relationships.

**Julie Saeger** is our Volunteer Marketing/Fundraising Director. She will orchestrate event and program sponsors while building strong corporate partner relationships.

**Benji Gil** is a former major league Texas Ranger's baseball player and won a World Series ring with the California Angels. As a volunteer, Benji is orchestrating our 2011 Golf Tournament Fundraiser and Gala while developing celebrity, private, and corporate endorsements.

**Annette Brauer** remains the volunteer Program Administrator scheduling participants, coordinating with Program Managers, and participant communication on all questions regarding RISE Programs.

**Joel "Peanut" Hendrix** is the RISE Equipment Manager responsible whose responsibilities are to maintain our massive equipment inventory as well as delivery to program sites.

## Saying goodbye to Spencer Larimore

Good Morning Spencer,

There are no words that even come close to describing what Justin found in you as his friend. Gary and I personally want to thank you for coming by the house last night and visiting with him, when you left he wept the largest tears I have ever seen. In the short amount of time that you have been an active part of Justin's

life. You made him feel "normal", you made him feel like "one of the guys" instead of an outcast which unfortunately that is in a lot of cases the way Justin is made to feel in this cruel world. He felt as though he had a place and was a part of something. The rugby team and all the members have all had an impact on Justin and his outlook on life, but you Spence are the one that made him feel worthy.

I became a part of Justin's life and was amazed at of Justin's compassion and his wanting to take care of people and always make things better and then was shocked when we were in public at his reluctance to talk to small children that would approach him. He had been made fun of and humiliated so many times that even with a small child he would create distance. He is a complicated young man that many people when they give him a chance, discover that he can be amazing. That being said, Spencer you gave him a chance and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

A part inside of me feels like it is dying when I see pain in my children's eyes, pain from a heart ache is not one that can be fixed with a band aid. Justin's heart broke when you told him the news of you leaving. You are an amazing man and will be missed very much! I wish you all the best things in life on this new adventure that you will be embracing. I am sure with your family around, you will be even more capable of giving and blessing others as you have blessed Justin and my family. I know you will be awarded for being the type of person that you are!!! Stay Strong in Rugby! In Justin's eyes and mine you are a SUPERSTAR!! Please keep in touch. We will be happy to put you up any time you would like to visit.

Best Wishes,  
Traci Miller, January 28, 2011

## Thanks from Spencer Larimore

I found a niche in RISE that made all of it worthwhile. I really want to continue what I have been doing in Dallas here in Boise. If I can help one more person feel normal in this world I will feel like I have given back what you and so many of the folks at RISE have given to me. I really hope Little T can somehow continue playing rugby with RISE and the NTC. We all know how much it meant to him to get to play against Zupan. It will mean just as much to me to see him continue playing every Friday. I also spoke with Will about continuing to help get Justin to rugby. He said he will help.

Paul, thank you again for letting me work with you and for being such a good friend. It really was a lot of fun building the NTC even though it was a lot of work. The tournament was a huge success and I am so glad that I stuck it out till the end. Peace out my friend!

Hope to see you again soon!

Hope to see you again soon!

Spencer Larimore, January 29, 2011

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