



Wheelchair Getaways

July 2002

Customer

Newsletter

The Leader In Accessible Van Rentals

This month is the 12th Anniversary of ADA Act, which was signed on July 26, 1990 !!

Amusement/Theme Park Accessibility

Amusement and theme parks offer a wide variety of activities for all ages. You could visit a local theme park or rent a Wheelchair Getaways van and visit one of the USA Today's readers poll top five:

- 5) Universal Studios Hollywood
- 4) Magic Kingdom
- 3) Cedar Point
- 2) Disney MGM Studios (Walt Disney World)
- 1) Islands of Adventure (Universal Orlando)

If you plan to visit one of these top five, it is always good to check on accessibility before you make the trip. We checked on accessibility for the top five parks.

photo provided by Joel Styer from the website www.ridezone.com



Orlando, Florida, is the home to three of the top five locations. If you plan a trip to Orlando, you will never run out of things to do. The city has great accessibility and even offers a Rider's Guide covering most of their parks.

1) Island of Adventure -- Electric and non-motorized wheelchairs can be rented on a daily basis. To ensure an electric (EVC) rental, call 24 hrs in advance at (407) 224-6350. Facilities for shopping and dining are wheelchair accessible. Outdoor stage shows have reserved areas for guests in wheelchairs. Each attraction has specific boarding requirements and accommodations and

certain attractions will allow visitors to remain in their wheelchair. For more information on the accessibility of Island of Adventure visit the website at:

themeparks.universalstudios.com/orlando/website/disability.htm. To request a Universal Orlando Rider's Guide or Rider for Rider Safety and Guest with Disabilities call (407) 224-6350.

2) Disney MGM Studios -- Wheelchair rentals are available or guests may use their own wheelchair. EVC rentals are also available to guests 18 years or older. These rentals are on a basis of first-come, first-served and no reservations are accepted so prepare to arrive at the park early. For more information on the park call (407) WDW-MAGIC (939-6244) or visit the website at: <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/waltdisneyworld/index>

Information on accessible hotel rooms throughout the resort can be obtained at (407) 939-7807.

4) Magic Kingdom -- A Guidebook for Guests with Disabilities can be obtained from City Hall. One resource of information on attractions and their accessibility can be found online at:

http://psc.disney.go.com/wdwr/media/parksand-more/magickingdom/MK_Dis_Guidescreen.pdf

Information on accessible resort accommodations can be obtained by calling the Walt Disney World Resorts Special Reservations at (407) 937-7807. Additional questions about The Magic Kingdom can be answered by contacting the park at (407) WDW-MAGIC (939-6244).

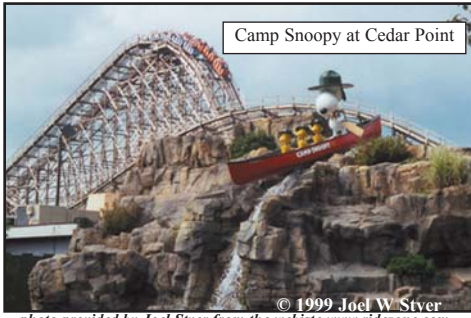
To rent a Wheelchair Getaways accessible van in **Orlando** for your visit to exciting attractions, call 1-800-242-4990.

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O'ver the land of the free and the home of the brave !

If you are interested in a location further north, try Cedar Point located in north central Ohio. The nearest airport is Cleveland Hopkins and is an easy drive from many major cities.

3) Cedar Point -- If the Special Access Entrance is needed when visiting this park, be sure to first obtain



a Ride Admissions List and Rider Safety Guide from the park or Town Hall. This guide will explain the procedures of boarding the rides. For rides that are listed in the Rider Safety Guide, a boarding time is given to guests from the host/hostesses and this time will include a maximum party of 4 people. Many rides are not listed in the guide and a wait at the Special Access Entrance is required while the additional members of the party to go through the line. Non-motorized and electric wheelchairs are available for rentals at a first-come, first-serve basis. More information on accessibility of Cedar Point can be obtained by contacting park operations at (419) 627-2301 or by visiting the website at:

www.cedarpoint.com/public/insidepark/rides/special_rideadmission.com

Begin planning your thrilling visit to northern Ohio by reserving an accessible van rental from Wheelchair Getaways of **Ohio** by calling **1-800-398-5165**.

A trip to Hollywood is always an adventure. You can fly into several airports in Southern California and travel to many parks, a favorite is Universal Studios Hollywood.

5) Universal Studios Hollywood -- This theme park "prides itself on providing complete and convenient access for all disabled guests." Detailed printed information can be provided for persons with disabilities at the Guest Relations window. Visit the website at:

<http://themeparks.universalstudios.com/hollywood/website/index.html>

or call 1-800-Universal for more information on the park.

A Wheelchair Getaways' accessible van can meet you at the airport upon arrival to your adventure-filled visit to Hollywood. To contact the the **Southern California** location to help with all of your reservations needs, call **1-800-659-1972**. For **national reservations** call **1-800-642-2042** or visit our website at www.wheelchairgetaways.com.

Disabilities Today

Sponsored by Wheelchair Getaways of Michigan

Roger McCarville has hosted a program that covers stories focused on many aspects of the disabled community for over a year. His audience grows everyday. If you are unable to receive his show in your area, contact your local PBS station or visit the www.pbs.org for more information.

Press Release provided by Roger McCarville, host of *Disabilities Today*:

Disabilities Today, the magazine-style news program shown through Detroit Public Television, recently celebrated its first year of programming.

Airing Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., *Disabilities Today* provides in-depth coverage on: new technologies, such as equipment and therapeutic gear; medical research; travel and entertainment, focusing on accessibility; sports related physical and recreation therapy; and people with disabilities who have excelled in businesses, sports, and facets of everyday life.

According to executive producer Jim Saliba, "We wanted to create a vehicle to provide information and opportunities to the disabled community to help enhance their lifestyle, while also creating awareness and dispelling misconceptions of those who suffer from a disability."

The show's host, Roger McCarville, disabled from a boating accident 25 years ago, well known as an advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, said, "the show is a source of information, inspiration, and education. While most people immediately connect a disability with physical or mental limitations, they don't realize that disabilities can range from hearing loss and diminished eyesight to heart disease." ...Continued on next page



More than 54 million Americans today, 1.7 million of which live in Michigan, suffer from some type of disability, and more than 80% of all Americans will suffer from a disability during their lifetime. With those statistics, the importance of such a show is evident.

Affiliate PBS stations must agree as Disabilities Today was recently added to the line-up in Indiana, as well as most stations in the PBS Michigan network including: Flint, Bay City, Saginaw, Marquette, and to be seen in Grand Rapids.

Additional information on stories seen in the program can be found on the Disabilities Today website at www.disabilitiestoday.com. Disabilities Today is a production of Burke Video Company, Troy, MI.

Wheelchair Getaways of Michigan
has been a
supporter from the start.

The Michigan location can be con-
tacted at

1-800-887-7868 or visit the website at
www.wheelchairgetaways.com

Adaptive Water Sport

Information provided by Kevin Mitchell, director of Michigan Adaptive Sports

For those who like adventure and fun in the sun, adaptive water sports are always a good choice of entertainment. Kayaking, canoeing, handcycling, sailing, and fishing are all fun outdoor activities that can be done in, or around the water.

Kevin Mitchell, the director of Michigan Adaptive Sports, runs five adaptive summer sports clinics. These clinics are held at Pontiac Lake, located in southeast Michigan, throughout the summer.



Water tests and other evaluations are completed upon arrival. "Safety comes first, then fun, then learning," says Mr. Mitchell. It is important to be safe when learning any new sport, particularly in the water.

The clinics try to give independence to the athlete, teaching them to perform the sport on their own. Equipment can be loaned to those who chose to participate in the sport outside of the clinic. At the end of the year, Michigan Adaptive Sports holds a Sport-Tacular II for families. This event allows families the use of Dearborn Park. Visitors are provided with a tent and meals and can participate in a variety of activities. This year's main event is a Dinner Dance, complete with a D.J. Families do not have to attend a clinic to participate in Sports-Tacular II. For more information contact Michigan Adaptive Sports at (248) 988-0156.

For more information on adaptive sports in your area try contacting one of these organizations:

Infinitec Inc.

www.infinitec.org

Disabled Sports USA

www.dsusa.org
301-217-0960

Access To Recreation

www.accesstr.com
1-800-634-4351

National Sports Center for the Disabled

www.nscd.org
(970) 726-1540

*The following is a list of events provided by Sandy Doery,
Pontiac Lake can be contacted at (248) 858-7596.*

Michigan Adaptive Sports Presents Water-skiing, Canoeing/Kayaking& Handcycling

Come join in some summer fun, whether it's your first time out, or if you want to perfect your skills! New Volunteers Welcome.

When: Friday, July 12

Friday, August 9

Friday, August 23

Site: Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

**** Please note that there is a park entry fee for each vehicle*

Cost: \$10 per sport for MAS members, \$15 per sport for non-members

(MAS membership dues \$25 per year)

Time: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm with picnic lunch included

Required: Pool testing for Kayaking

Tuesday, July 23: 7 pm - 9 pm

Pre-Registration is required one week prior to the event date, please contact **MAS** at **248-988-015**.

Other Events:

Northern Adaptive Sports - Water-ski Clinic on July 20, contact Sue Gotts at 231-935-7350

Sports-Tacular II - **September 13-15** at Camp Dearborn, Brighton. Weekend event with camping, fishing, water-skiing, kayaking, canoeing, handcycling and sailing.