



July 6, 2018

**Very Special Athletes Coming to 'R.O.C. the Barriers' at R.O.C. Park**

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – On July 14<sup>th</sup> the City of Madeira Beach's R.O.C. Park, 200 Rex Place, will host "R.O.C. the Barriers", a very special event designed specifically for some very special athletes. Special needs kids and teens from around the Tampa region will compete in basketball, baseball, soccer and more.

Advanced registration for this free event is required and available by emailing [rocthebarriers@gmail.com](mailto:rocthebarriers@gmail.com). Check-in begins at 9 a.m., events will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, and will be followed by lunch and an awards ceremony.

Athletes will have access to cool-down stations throughout the park, with food and beverages available during the event.

"Special needs kids are just that; kids. They run, play, compete and win, but there just aren't that many opportunities out there for these kids to get on the field. We want to change that," said Paige Karns, VP of William Karns Enterprises.



"R.O.C. the Barriers" is the result of a partnership between Madeira Beach Parks and Recreation, the Mike Alstott Family Foundation and William Karns Enterprises. Mascots from several sports teams including the Rowdies, the Toronto Blue Jays and others will be in attendance cheering the athletes.

"R.O.C. the Barriers is designed to focus on these kids' abilities, not their disabilities," said Jay Hatch, director, City of Madeira Beach Parks and Recreation. "Staff and volunteers will be on hand to make sure every child is given the opportunity to leave it all on the field, and have a great time doing it."

For more information about the "R.O.C. the Barriers" event visit their [Facebook](#) page.

For more information about the City of Madeira Beach contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or [cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov](mailto:cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov).