


**Subject:**  Welcome to Gear Up Florida!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 10:56:21 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Liza Daisley <ldaisley@abilityexperience.org>  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png

Hello Gear Up Florida Parents and Families!

Welcome to [The Ability Experience](#) and [Gear Up Florida](#)! If you are receiving this email, your son has applied and been accepted to the 2024 Gear Up Florida team. Congratulations! You and your team member are in for an amazing ride over the coming months!

Our mission is to use shared experiences to support people with disabilities and develop the men of Pi Kappa Phi into servant leaders. By committing to Gear Up Florida, your team member is embracing this mission and all that it encompasses.

Over the next several months your son will be working hard to fundraise, train and prepare for a summer experience that will change his life. We are excited to welcome you to The Ability Experience family and want to make sure you have all the information you need to support your team member through his journey. In addition to the **Gear Up Florida Participant Center** (coming soon) and [The Ability Experience](#) website, I will be your first point of contact for questions you do not find answers to online.

Here's what you can expect from us during the coming months:

- **Team Kickoff Webinar** for team members and their families. Team members are required to attend one of the two sessions. Parents/families are strongly encouraged to join as well!
  - Sunday, December 17, at 7:00pm ET  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84638837175?pwd=MM1aKLLdxYmBfj5kKShuD5mjCeMrgw.1>
  - Tuesday, December 19, at 7:30pm ET  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87848721277?pwd=zpQPiOO8SszVqE4WITER8Xwilze2md.1>
- Access to the **GUF Team Participant Center** for detailed gear requirements and recommendations, a library of these emails, web links, webinar recordings and other important resources.
- Regular email updates from me with any short-term need-to-know items.
- 2 webinar presentations with our President and Executive Director, Basil Lyberg, which take a deeper dive into the details of the organization and the program.

As we move closer to the summer, you will receive additional information and dates pertaining to Team Orientation, Kickoff Celebration (May 11) and the Gear Up Florida Arrival celebration in Tallahassee, Florida (May 25).

One of the first questions we get from parents is “How can we help?” SUPPORT is the primary answer. A recent summer event participant commented that preparedness comes as much

from the heart as from the body. When his heart is engaged, he'll be inspired to do what is necessary for success. Encourage your team member. As you can imagine, preparation is necessarily rigorous for an event of this magnitude. We provide benchmarks and deadlines for both training and fundraising as well as extensive support from our staff and team of professional cycling coaches. However, you can help him stay on task. In addition, you can help him remember WHY he is making this journey.

I am here to discuss any questions or concerns you might have regarding our events. Please do not hesitate to email me or call my office at (980) 318-5380. I look forward to staying in touch!

Kind regards,

Liza

**LIZA DAISLEY**

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*The Ability Experience office at the Kelley A. Bergstrom Leadership Center of Pi Kappa Phi has moved! Please note our new address above.*