**Empowerment3SPRING 2024 Program Guide**

**Session Dates: February 10th to April 28th**

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Register by February 3rd*, 2023*

Registration Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/Empowerment3CenterJMU/Spring2024ProgramRegistration>

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# **Empowerment3 (E3) Overview**

Our Mission: We seek to empower **individuals and their families, professionals** (in-service and pre-service), and **communities** using physical activity, mentorship, and social connection.

What We Do: E3 conducts **programming, research, training, and provides support** to improve physical and emotional health, community participation, and quality of life of individuals, increase disability literacy and self-efficacy of professionals, and challenge communities to become ability first.

Whom We Serve: E3’s health promotion efforts serve Individuals with disabilities (physical, intellectual, behavioral, visual, hearing.), older adults, refugees, English language learners, and at-risk youth.

**All programs have specific spots for peers without disabilities to promote inclusion.**

We serve participants across the Valley, Virginia, and nationwide.

Research: E3 explores questions across **participants, families, pre-service/in-service professionals, and communities** (e.g., barriers to participation; improvements in physical and mental health, community participation, and social determinants of health; increases in disability literacy and self-efficacy).

Program Fees: Fees are in the descriptions of each program. Grant funds offset program fees. Scholarship funds are available for those unable to pay due to circumstances. Please pay program fees to James Madison University (JMU), Memo Line, Empowerment3.

LET’S DISCOVER YOUR ABILITIES! - REGISTER TODAY!

**Program Policy: Program Guide – Spring 2024**

**PROGRAM ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**

1. All participants (mentees) must submit all paperwork electronically, mail the forms, or drop off the documents to enroll. Mentees can call E3 (540-568-4877) to complete initial paperwork if needed. Mentees must meet a “consent to participate form,” which requires a doctor’s signature to enroll.

2. Mentees must submit paperwork and program fees at the start of the first program. Spots are limited, and while you may have a space reserved, your program slot is not guaranteed until payment is received. Without submission of the appropriate paperwork, the organization is liable if an injury occurs, and documentation is not on file.

3. E3 conducts Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to determine the impact of our programming on mentees, mentors, caregivers, and instructors. post testing is completed by all mentees, with their mentor, during each program’s first and last week. In addition to research, data collection will establish individualized program goals and assess program improvement at the end. This impact data is essential to our programming and E3’s ability to secure funds to keep fees down.

4. Mentees agree to attend all scheduled programs. If a participant must miss a program due to illness, family conflict, travel/weather concern, etc. – a guardian or caregiver will notify the specified program contact (in advance if possible). Please remember that our mentors are volunteers; if a mentee does not show up, the volunteer believes they are no longer needed and often drops out, leaving us shorthanded if the participant attends future weeks.

**Program Policy: Program Guide – Spring 2024**

**APPROPRIATE PROGRAM ATTIRE**

1. Please ensure the mentee has appropriate footwear (sneakers/tennis shoes) for land-based programs. Ensure clean flip-flops, crocs, or water shoes for water-based programs.

2. Please ensure the mentee wears appropriate athletic wear to programs. Land programs: Shorts or exercise pants and a t-shirt;

Water programs: One-piece bathing suit, shorts/t-shirt, or two-piece.

Proper attire ensures participant safety as well as protects mentors and equipment.

**PROGRAM FEES**

1. Program fees are **paid to James Madison University** (JMU), memo line: Empowerment3. **Full or Partial scholarships are available - based on financial need (**written justification needed – e.g., fixed income, SSI, economic hardship). Mentees on scholarship may be limited to one program depending on program availability. Grant funds or independent donors provide scholarship support. Many thanks to our donors.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

1. If JMU OR Harrisonburg City Schools are closed, programs are automatically canceled. We will cancel programs if the weather is unsafe.

2. If we cancel programs the day before, mentees will be notified by e-mail.

If we cancel the day of programs, mentees will receive an e-mail and call/text. Cancellations will be posted on social media as well.

**PHOTO RELEASE**

Empowerment3 takes photos/videos during programs and events to use in our newsletters, training for volunteers and staff, and promotional or educational materials. Participants or Guardians must Indicate their photography preference during registration.

**E3 Programming Framework**

Physical Activity & Nutrition: We offer **small group and one-on-one** programming via face-to-face, virtual, and hybrid formats.

1:1 Mentorship/Coaching: Each participant has a one-on-one mentor who provides **individualized instruction and support**. A mentor **participates alongside their mentee** in all activities.

Our mentors are pre-professional students across *30 different academic programs* (e.g., kinesiology, health sciences, pre-med, pre-PT, pre-OT, psychology, social work, education/special education, engineering) at James Madison University. We also have Eastern Mennonite University, Bridgewater College, and Blue Ridge Community College mentors.

Social Connection: E3 believes **same-age and cross-age peer engagement** is essential! During small group programs, mentees and mentors engage with other participants to facilitate communication and social inclusion. Individuals celebrate their successes with peers during one-on-one programs by posting to our social media.

**Local Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Programs**

*SESSION DATES: FEB 10- APR 28*

*Weekly View:*

**Monday:**

THRIVE: Pleasant View Inc. Day Program 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

First Tee Golf Program 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Soccer 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Builders & Bulldozers 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

**Tuesday:**

Ninja Warrior 5:00-5:45 p.m. OR 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Unified Basketball 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

**Wednesday:**

Kidnastics: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Fitness for All: 5:30-6:20 p.m. OR 6:30- 7:20 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Face to Face Individual Program

**Thursday**

Dinner Club 5:15-6:45 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program.

Dance & Yoga 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

**Friday**

Fitness for All 5:00-5:45 p.m. OR 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Face to Face Individual Program

**Saturday**

Beginner/Intermediate Aquatics 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. OR 10:30-11:20 a.m.

Face to Face Group Program

**Sunday**

Challenger Baseball 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

Masters Aquatics 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Face to Face Group Program

**THRIVE: Transforming Health through Relationships via In-Person or Virtual Environments**

Tuesday: 10:00-11:00 am

Friday: 10:00-11:00 am

THRIVE offers adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities a spectrum of physical activity, wellness, nutrition, and social connection activities to improve their fitness, emotional health, and quality of life.

Age Groups: 21-99

Price: $55

Location: Pleasant View Inc.

**NEW PROGRAM: Builders & Bulldozers**

Mondays: 6:00-7:00 PM

Builders and Bulldozers allows participants to challenge themselves through a variety of gross and fine motor activities. This program will target adolescents and young adults as they learn problem solving and teamwork skills through meaningful, authentic exploration.

In Builders and Bulldozers, mentees will improve their fine motor movements. Leads will coordinate fun, hands-on projects to test small muscle movements in the hands and fingers to aid in growth and development throughout the lifespan. Activities include building, origami, etc.

Age Groups: 12 +

Price: $55

Location: Godwin Hall

**First Tee Golf Program**

Mondays 5:00 - 6:00 pm

SPECIAL SESSION DATES: October 16 – November 13

Get your golf clubs out and start practicing your swing because Empowerment3 is partnering with First Tee of Shenandoah Valley to bring you an adapted golf program.

Age Groups: 8-12, 13-18, 19+

Price: $55

Location: First Tee of Shenandoah Valley (690 Garbers Church Rd, Harrisonburg)

**Soccer**

Mondays: 5:30-6:30 PM

In this adapted soccer program, individuals can learn and refine their soccer skills. Improve your ball control, dribbling, passing, and scoring skills with your mentor! Through interactive games and activities, mentees will be able to socialize and learn the value of teamwork.

Participants split into teams according to their age group and their assigned coach will design developmentally appropriate exercises.

Age Groups: 3-7; 8-13, 14-18, 19+

Price: $55

Location: Harrisonburg OR Waynesboro

**Unified Basketball**

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 PM

Empowerment3 is partnering with the Special Olympics College Club to provide an inclusive basketball program. Participants can play on an intramural college basketball team. To participate, participants must be ambulatory.

Age Groups: 18-35

Price: FREE

Location: University Recreation Center

**Ninja Warrior**

Tuesdays 5:00-5:45 p.m. OR 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Do you love American Ninja Warrior?

Train like a Ninja with adapted versions of the show’s most iconic obstacles!

Improve motor skills, body control, cardiovascular endurance, upper body strength, and balance while allowing participants to work on social and communication skills in an authentic environment.

Participants will move through varying obstacle courses and physical challenges to complete each station at their own pace and ability level.

Age Groups: 3-7; 8-13; 14-18; 19+

Price: $55

Location: Godwin Hall,

Combatives Room

**Kidnastics**

Wednesday: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

A child-centered approach to gymnastics that incorporates elements of traditional and educational gymnastics. Participants with and without disabilities work on skills and ability-specific challenges alongside their 1:1 mentor.

Skills focused on: rolling, balancing, vaulting (movement on your hands), jumping, cardiovascular fitness, and muscular strength.

At the end of the program, participants perform an ability showcase or routine.

Age Groups: 2-5, 6-9, 10-12

Price: $55

Location: Godwin Hall, JMU (Room 137)

**Fitness for All**

Wednesday:

5:30-6:20 pm - ages 10-17

6:30-7:20 pm - ages 18+

Friday:

5:00-5:45 pm - ages 10-17

6:00-6:45 pm - ages 18+

This program allows individuals of all ages and ability levels to explore a community program of their choice for a semester (face-to-face) or design a virtual fitness session alongside their mentor/coach.

Example Opportunities:

* Individuals with brain Injury completing a personalized workout
* An individual with cerebral palsy and his mentor created their full-body workouts to do together
* An individual with spastic quadriplegia showed off his boxing skills each week.

Age Groups: 10-17; 18+

Price: $55

Location: Godwin Hall, JMU (Room 116)

**Dinner Club**

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 pm

This program includes nutrition education, meal planning, cooking skills, and meal preparation. Participants get to take home their meal to enjoy.

Many thanks to JMU Health Professions/Dietetics for using the state-of-the-art food lab.

Seeking Program Sponsors to Cover Food and Supplies

Age Range: 12 and up

Price: $75

Location: College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) Building, JMU

G012 Teaching Kitchen

*Program Partners:*

*JMU Health Professions, Dietetics, and Kinesiology*

**Dance & Yoga**

Tuesday: 5:00-6:00 PM

In this NEW program, Empowerment3 instructors will teach dance moves to fun songs AND guide participants through yoga positions. This program is a great way for your participants to move their bodies, express themselves, have fun, and relieve stress.

Age Groups: 2-5, 6-9, 10-13

Price: $55

Location: Godwin Hall, JMU (Room 137/140) or Zoom

**Beginner/Intermediate Aquatics**

Saturday 9:30 -10:20 and 10:30 -11:20 am

ALL AGES WELCOME

Whether you need to gain the necessary skills to be able to become more independent in the water or wish to improve your current swimming skills – this swimming program is for you!

Our program provides individualized and small group instruction designed to meet each individual's present level of performance and comfort in the water.

Sessions are 50 minutes in length.

Participants are in age and ability-specific groups.

Age Groups: 3-99

Price: $75

Location: University Recreation Center, JMU

**Masters Aquatics**

Sunday 3:00 - 4:00 Pm

Participants who sign up for this program should be able to swim at least one lap. Masters aquatics participants work on their swimming technique, learn specific strokes, and increase their cardio-respiratory endurance.

Each swimmer has an individualized program to challenge their current abilities and progress toward their goals.

*SPONSORED BY:*

*Frank and Melissa Ballif*

*in celebration of Troy Haverstrom*

Age Groups: 3-99 (must be able to swim a length of the pool)

Price: $75

Location: University Recreation Center (UREC), JMU

**Challenger Baseball**

Sunday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Empowerment3 has partnered with Harrisonburg Little League Association (HLLA) to offer Challenger Baseball.

Players with disabilities are matched with a 1:1 buddy to support their success on the field while ensuring safety and fun for all!

HLLA allows players from all counties across the Shenandoah Valley to enroll in addition to Harrisonburg City residents.

Age Groups: 5-Adult

Price: $25

Location: Purcell Park, Harrisonburg

Rain Location: Godwin Hall, JMU

**Regional Programs**

Session Dates: *February 10th- April 28th*

*Weekly View:*

**Friday:**

OrthoAbility

Location: Brooks YMCA Charlottesville

Time Slots:

12:30-1:20 p.m.

1:30-2:20 p.m.

OrthoAbility

Location: Augusta Health

Time Slots:

10:00-10:45 a.m.

11:00-11:45 a.m.

**ALL REGIONAL PROGRAMS:**

Price: $55

Age: 15+

Face to Face Group Session

Face to Face Individual Session

**OrthoAbility** offers children and adults with physical disabilities and their families, across Virginia, a spectrum of physical activity, wellness, nutrition, and social connection activities to improve their physical and emotional health.

Ages 2-99 engage in weekly activities with a one-on-one mentor small group or individualized activities Face-to-face in your local community or virtual (zoom or phone)

Participants Will Receive:

* Fitness Monitor
* THRIVE Activity Packet
* Empowerment3 Connected Wellness
* Activity Backpack
* THRIVE Calendar

**THRIVE** offers children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities a spectrum of physical activity, wellness, nutrition, and social connection activities to improve their fitness, emotional health, and quality of life.

Ages 2-99 engage in weekly activities with a one-on-one mentor small group or individualized activities Face-to-face in your local community or virtual (zoom or phone)

Participants Will Receive:

* Activity Backpack
* THRIVE Calendar
* Fitness Monitor
* THRIVE Activity Packet
* Empowerment3 Connected Wellness

**Program Options**

*Research Outcomes Collected on All Participants: Pre-Post Changes in Physical and Emotional Health*

Face-to-Face Programs:

Participants join a program within their local community. An OrthoAbility/THRIVE team member provides support to the participant or instructor.

Virtual Programs:

Participants across the state can join a class or an individualized physical activity session via zoom with the support of a 1:1 mentor!

Activity Packets:

Participants and their 1:1 mentor utilize a personalized THRIVE packet with physical activity, wellness, and nutrition activities.

Control Group:

Participants receive theme-based content to use on their own to improve overall health. No weekly programming or mentorship.

*To sign up for one of these program groups, contact us at empowerment3@jmu.edu*

**National Program**

THRIVE Cerebral Palsy

**THRIVE CP** offers children and adults with cerebral palsy and their families nationwide a spectrum of physical activity, wellness, nutrition, and social connection activities to improve their physical and emotional health.

Ages 2-100 engage in weekly activities with a one-on-one mentor small group or individualized activities Face-to-face in your local community or virtual (zoom or phone) Pre and post changes in physical and emotional health collected

**SPECIFIC SMALL GROUP PROGRAM DAY & TIMES TBD**

**Price: $55**

**THRIVE CP Free Resources**

Monthly Activity Packets and Calendars: with access to videos, worksheets, recipes, and more

Activity Backpack: w/ equipment & monitor

Access to Online Wellness Apps:

Connected Wellness with a health coach

Exercise Buddy

*Funds for this research project were provided by the United Cerebral Palsy Research Grant Program administered by United Cerebral Palsy.*

# **Other Empowerment3 Opportunities**

Empowerment3 Resources:

**Shenandoah Valley Inclusive Wellness Coalition (SVIWC):**

SVIWC 's mission is to bring together organizations and advocates to make a more inclusive Shenandoah Valley. We strive to provide resources and opportunities to underserved communities such as children and adults with disabilities, English language learners, refugees, seniors, alongside all communities.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

*Disability Advocates and Service Providers*

are essential in sharing the needs and desires of the population(s) they serve. Advocates

are also needed to educate and support wellness organizations about the needs of underserved populations.

*Individuals and Caretakers* primarily benefit from the Coalition! However, to optimize the SVIWC experience it is important for individuals and caregivers to share their perspectives (e.g., successes struggles, needs, etc.) Your voice will make programs and services more appropriate and inclusive. SVIWC needs you!

**How SVIWC can Help You!**

* Data – collects data regarding gaps and demands for inclusive programming.
* Connection – provides a place to network and connect with organizations, families, and individuals who share similar experiences.
* Support – help support and advocate for your needs to make sure that everyone has access to inclusive programming.

For more information visit the link or contact: valleyiwc@gmail.com or call (540) 568-4877

**Empowerment3 Connected Wellness:** Empowering Individuals to Showcase Abilities & Improve Health

Empowerment3’s virtual health coaching and care coordination platform supports individuals with disabilities and caregivers to take control of their own physical and emotional health.

Join our Connected Wellness program!

Game Changing – previous Connected Wellness users saw 55% reduction in depression and lowered HbA1c by 0.86%. Let us see how it will impact on your health!

Personalized – Each user completes an assessment & meets with a health coach to customize program features.

100% virtual - Meet with your coach, utilize the health library & participate in wellness classes from home.

The Program Includes:

* A personal health coach to support your achievement of health and wellness goals for six (6) months.
* An online platform/app to track your health goals, such as exercise, eating well, and managing stress.
* Online exercise and mindfulness sessions
* Credible information on topics like high blood pressure, nutrition, diabetes, stress, and more
* Tools to set goals and journal on your progress.
* Opportunity to take part in challenges and win prizes!

**Many thanks to our program partners:**

* Harrisonburg Parks and Rec
* James Madson University Recreation
* Sentara RMH Wellness Center
* JMU College of Health and Behavioral Studies
* Edge Effect Fitness and Martial Arts
* JMU Department of Kinesiology
* Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education
* Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley
* 4-VA Advancing the Commonwealth
* Exercise Connection
* Augusta Health
* JMU Department of Health Professions
* Bridgewater Retirement Community
* Energy for Life
* United Cerebral Palsy
* Special Olympics- Area 26
* The Y
* Shenandoah Valley Inclusive Wellness Coalition
* UVA Health
* UVA Children’s

**Grateful for our Program Sponsors:**

* Inclusion Matters by Shane’s Inspiration
* Harrisonburg Little League Association
* Frank and Melissa Ballif

Save the Date: E3 SPRING FLING

Empowerment 3 hosts an annual Spring Fling to celebrate the end of our spring programs! Mark this date on your calendar. More information will be provided as this date approaches.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th, 2024

Register Here: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/Empowerment3CenterJMU/Spring2024ProgramRegistration>

Medical Form:

<https://bit.ly/3QBainN>

Must be completed every 12 months

Email to [empowerment3@jmu.edu](mailto:empowerment3@jmu.edu)

Or Mail to The Empowerment3 Center

61 Bluestone Dr, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Empowerment3 Leadership:

**Dr. Thomas Moran**, Executive Director

[Morante@jmu.edu](mailto:Morante@jmu.edu)

**Erick Teo-Abrego**, Presidential Engagement Fellow

[Teoabree@jmu.edu](mailto:Teoabree@jmu.edu)

Center Contact Info

**Empowerment3**

*Center for Physical Activity and Wellness for the Underserved*

James Madison University

Department of Kinesiology

261 Bluestone Dr., MSC 2302

Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Ph: 540-568-4877

E-mail: [empowerment3@jmu.edu](mailto:empowerment3@jmu.edu)

Program or Research Questions??

Become a Program Partner or Sponsor