Paralympic hopefuls start their Gateway to Gold in Madison, WI

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**Madison, WI**– Next Thursday, October 17th individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments will participate in a Gateway to Gold talent identification event in Madison, WI hosted by Central Cross Country Ski Association and Paralympic Sport Club - Madison in conjunction with U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States Olympic Committee. Kicking-off at 9:30am, the event aims to discover athletes who could compete for future U.S. Paralympic Teams.

“The U.S. Paralympic Team strives to be the best in the world. But we cannot get to the top of the podium without the help of our community partners like Central Cross Country Ski Association (CXC),” said Charlie Huebner, USOC Chief of Paralympics. “With CXC’s help in hosting this Gateway to Gold talent identification clinic, U.S. Paralympics might find the next great Paralympic champion in your backyard.”

Created in 2013, the Gateway to Gold talent identification events held across the country will introduce individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments, including youth, adults and military veterans, to the Paralympic sports of Nordic Skiing and Biathlon with hopes of identifying individuals for the athlete pipeline. As a part of the clinic, prospective athletes will be tested on a variety of skills including endurance and marksmanship that can help determine their aptitude for Paralympic sport.

Gateway to Gold talent identification events are being held throughout the country. For registration information on the Madison, WI event, visit www.cxcskiing.org or email info@cxcskiing.org. Participation is free.

Launched in 2013, Gateway to Gold is the new U.S. Paralympics initiative for identifying and recruiting Paralympic eligible athletes who show an ability to compete in the future at an elite level. Gateway to Gold participants go through sport specific tests and evaluations to determine if they are ready for the next level of opportunity in Paralympic sport

**About Central Cross Country Ski Association:**Central Cross Country Ski Association (CXC), a regional governing body for Nordic skiing, providing an organization which enables athletes, coaches and officials to achieve excellence in cross country skiing through: Education, Cooperation, Communication, and Competition. Visit CXC website at [www.cxcskiing.org](http://www.cxcskiing.org)

**About U.S. Paralympics:**U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and to promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical and visual disabilities.   
Visit the U.S. Paralympics website at [www.usparalympics.org](http://www.usparalympics.org).

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