

LEEP seeking volunteers to get a project off the ground - literally

Mankato non-profit Leisure Education People (LEEP) is seeking volunteers for an unusual but exciting task: transporting a gymnasium floor.

In what LEEP leadership sees as a first step toward a new facility, volunteers are sought to help dismantle and remove the Ringsted gym floor and bring it to Mankato for later use.

The Ringsted school has recently closed and the donation is a significant one for LEEP, which for the past 35 years has served people with developmental disabilities in the community through sports and social activities including vacation trips throughout the U.S. The organization also has the largest Special Olympics delegation in Minnesota.

For the Ringsted Gym Floor project, the organization is in particular need of volunteers with construction knowledge and tools.

The floor needs to be removed by the first weekend in April, and if the deadline isn't met the organization is set to miss out on a significant cost savings toward its goal of a new facility for LEEP events.

LEEP is looking for project managers, equipment, and 40-60 helping hands to remove the gym floor. For more information on the project, contact Cate DeBates at the LEEP office by calling 507-387-5122 or via email at programcoordinator@mankatoleep.

About Leisure Education for Exceptional People (LEEP)

Leisure Education for Exceptional People, Inc. (LEEP) is a non-profit, United Way supported organization that provides recreational and sporting opportunities for people with developmental disabilities so that they might achieve optimal levels of socialization and independence in the community.

LEEP Executive Director Mandy Hunecke stated "We have over 300 Special Olympic athletes that are having to share gym time with area schools. Having their own gym will ensure quality practice time." Mandy also said that she has been thinking about this ever since talk began about tearing down the Ringsted school and how something positive could come out of her hometown and benefit a good cause. "This was a twist of fate, it just worked out" Hunecke said passionately.



This is a recent photo of the gym floor in Ringsted which will be salvaged for future use; needs to be removed by first weekend in April.