



Joelette

OFF-ROAD WHEELCHAIR FOR PEOPLE WITH PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY DISABILITIES

The hiking chair named «Joëlette» is an all-terrain **onewheeled chair that enables mobility-challenged people to get involved into hiking and running activities**, even on the rockiest trails and roughest terrains.

The aim is **to make nature sports accessible to all** and to socially include people with permanent or temporary disabilities (ex. people with cast limbs, pregnant women, people in convalescence).

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Beneficiaries: adults and children

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Keywords

INCLUSION

DISABILITY

WELL-BEING

MENTAL HEALTH

FOREST PEDAGOGY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Item types

Two variants are available for adults, and one entirely dedicated to children:

- › **Joelette adventure:** single wheel with guidance of two guides.
- › **Joelette e-motion:** adventure model with the addition of a battery-powered accelerator to support longer hiking.
- › **Joelette Kids:** Two wheels with one or two guide riders.

How it works

Joelette works only with the support of **at least two physically healthy drivers**. One will take care of the front and one will take care of the back, and they will accompany the person in the wheelchair during the chosen route.

The **front guide** is responsible for managing the traction of the wheelchair using a special strap. He or she is also responsible for balancing the wheelchair and helping to overcome obstacles along the way.

The **back guide** also cooperates in maintaining the balance of the wheelchair, but his or her main role is to manage the brake handle and avoid abrupt pulls of the wheelchair.

There may also be **additional guides** who generally stand on either side of the passenger to ensure his or her comfort and to help other guides if needed.



ATTENTION - Rough and excessively sloping terrain need extra caution from guides. It is not recommended for physically fragile people who could suffer fractures, pain or musculoskeletal deformations following major shocks or vibrations (passage of steps, stones/rocks).



Best practices

Joelette is used by many mountain tourism associations, for group excursions. Sometimes, **the Park Authorities themselves handle the rental or loaner use of the wheelchair**.

Doing activities in nature can lead to **great benefits**. First of all psychological (mental processes, stress, depression, anxiety and emotions, management of negative emotions), then also referring to cognitive processes, social life (skills, interactions, behaviors and lifestyles) and spiritual well-being. On the physiological side, very significant effects have been observed in relation to the improvement of cardiovascular function and hemodynamic, neuroendocrine, metabolic, immune, inflammatory, and oxidative indices and for the reduction of pain (Forest bathing).

The tool can also be used **to raise awareness of disability among able-bodied people**. It can be rented to families or groups of friends who have members with permanent or temporary mobility disabilities.

Learn more about



WEB

- > <http://www.sentierinelparco.it/la-joelette/>
- > <https://www.dappertutto.org/montagna-e-natura>
- > <https://www.hce.asso.fr/>
- > <https://www.belfortissimi.com/>



VIDEO

- > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOKhP4htRIA>
- > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoTQdYqHAz4>