

South Park Youth Association

40th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Spring 2009

BATTER UP...

It's Time for Baseball and Softball at SPYA

Believe it or not, it's that time of year again...time to register for baseball and softball with South Park Youth Association. All the information you need about registration, evaluations, groupings and important dates is included in this newsletter. So read carefully. We at South Park are gearing up for another exciting season, and we hope you and your family are looking forward to the fun.

Our goal is to make SPYA the safest, most instructional and most positive youth program of its kind. To help us achieve that goal, please consider lending a hand. Everyone can do something to help the program, and here are some of the ways you can become involved.

1. We need assistant coaches, team moms, volunteers to work on the fields, and many other functions. Pitching in for South Park is a great way to be part of a community and enjoy the season with your child. ***Continuing in 2009: to enhance our services, and to match the protocol of neighboring youth sports associations, we are requiring each and every family to participate in hands-on support activities.*** See the Registration form for details.
2. Join your child in committing to his or her team. Make sure your child attends practices and games, and get them there on time.
3. Communicate with your coaches and commissioners about your child, the team and the league. Your ideas can help make South Park even better.
4. Always look for ways to keep our facilities cleaner and safer. Please don't leave it up to someone else.
5. Have fun and set an example of good sportsmanship for your children and their teammates. Teaching sportsmanship is our number-one priority at SPYA.

Registration

Registrations for South Park baseball and softball will be accepted at two locations again this year. Stop by and see us at the front of **CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL OR DICK'S SPORTING GOODS** at SouthPark Mall on **Saturdays, February 7, 14, and 21**, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Cost: Spring signups mark the beginning of a new year at South Park. Each family will be asked to pay a \$50 family membership fee at the time of registration. Family membership funds are used toward facility maintenance and improvement. The participation fees for each league are as follows:

Tee Ball (boys/girls-ages 5-6)	\$105
Coach Pitch baseball (ages 7-8)	\$125
Minor League baseball (ages 9-10)	\$135
Major League baseball (ages 11-12)	\$145
Babe Ruth baseball (ages 13-18)	\$230

Softball

Ages 8/under	\$120
Ages 10/under	\$130
Ages 12/under	\$140
Ages 15/under	\$150

NOTE: For baseball, the player's age is considered as of April 30, 2009. However, ages are considered as of December 31, 2008 for softball.

Please register as early as possible. This helps ensure that the evaluation and team assignment process goes smoothly and fairly. If you have questions about baseball or softball registration, please contact Larry Brown (704-362-1979).

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Come celebrate SPYA's 40th Anniversary at our casino-night fundraiser/bash on Saturday night April 18th! Please contact Gail Baron at 704-562-1218 for details on how you can participate in this event! More information to come...

SPYA is affiliated with Dixie Youth Baseball, the second largest youth baseball association in the United States. Dixie Youth's goal is to teach fair play, honesty, and love for the game of baseball. South Park is represented in post season Dixie Youth tournaments at age levels above T-ball.

For softball, South Park participates in the Char-Meck League. The league sponsors All Star teams at all age levels for post season play. More information will be provided during the regular season.

Baseball Information

Groupings

Baseball players will be grouped in leagues according to their age and ability. If a player is exceptionally proficient or lacking in experience for his age group, his parents might be approached to let him participate with an older or younger age group. We believe that matching the skill levels at each league produces the most rewarding experience for everyone. It is important that families support our grouping decisions.

T-Ball: T-ball is our youngest grouping. Children under ages 5 and 6 who have never played baseball or who have played only a season or two of T-ball can learn the basics on the game in this league. Children under age 5 may be permitted to play if the coaches and parents feel they are mature enough. In T-ball, a softer ball is used for safety. Batters are pitched to by their coach in order to develop hand-eye coordination. If, after 4 or 5 pitches, the batter does not hit the ball successfully, he or she may hit the ball off a "T" to learn the fundamentals of hitting. Winning (even keeping score) is not emphasized at this level. Our goal is to develop basic skills and concepts while experiencing the fulfillment of competition. T-ball games and practices will be held at Carmel Middle School. ***T-ball players do not attend evaluations. An organizational meeting for parents and players will be held on March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Carmel Middle T-ball field.***

Coach Pitch: Once a player has demonstrated sufficient T-ball skills (usually at or around age 7) he graduates to the coach pitch level where the field is bigger and the bases are further apart. The players in this league hit pitches thrown by their coach, and they will not be allowed to hit from the T. Our coach pitch players are mostly 7- and 8-year olds as well as some inexperienced 9-year olds who are not yet ready for kid pitch baseball. Score keeping, game strategies, and post season all stars are introduced at this level. South Park's Coach Pitch commissioner is Rob Davis.

Note: South Park does not offer machine pitch baseball. We believe hitting pitches from a live pitcher is better for skill development.

Minor League: This is where players first face a fellow player pitching to them, attempting to strike them out. Pitching, catching and base stealing skills are developed at this level. The league is comprised primarily of 9- and 10-year olds, as well as some less experienced 11-year olds. Minor league teams will play each other and teams from our neighboring Sardis Association. The fields are larger and base paths longer than coach pitch fields. The Minor League commissioner is John Baron.

Major League: Most of our 11- and 12-year old players participate in the Major League program. Each team will be coached by experienced coaches who emphasize skills, strategies, teamwork, work ethic and sportsmanship. The goal in the majors is to continue challenging each player to improve his game in a manner that builds confidence and self esteem.

Our major league teams will play each other two or three times and each Sardis major league team one time in the regular season. Rob Norris is the commissioner for the major league.

All Star Teams

Near the end of the regular season, All Star teams will be finalized for post season play for the coach pitch, minor and major leagues.

Keep up with all the latest South Park news at the Association's website:

www.spyasports.org

Player Evaluations for

Coach Pitch, Minors and Majors

At South Park, we make every effort to ensure that teams are balanced and that all coaches have the opportunity to draft teams fairly. This is why it is important to evaluate ALL players. Evaluations will be held on **Saturday, February 28th**, according to the following schedule:

COACH PITCH, MINORS, and MAJORS:

Last name beginning with A-L 1:00 p.m.

Last name beginning with M-Z 2:15 p.m.

MAKE UP SESSIONS:

Coach Pitch—Tuesday March 4 at 5:30

Minors — Wednesday March 5 at 5:30

Majors — Thursday March 6 at 5:30

Evaluations will be conducted on the fields behind Carmel Middle School. Signs will direct you to the proper fields. Please be prompt and dressed to play baseball. Remember, T-ball players do not attend evaluations.

Regular Season Schedule

Teams will be selected by draft and practices will begin on or about Sunday, March 8. Opening day ceremonies will be Saturday, April 18. This is a special day of team building and community fun, and you and your child will want to make every effort to be there.

Games will begin on April 14. In general, each team will have one weekday game and one weekend game throughout the season. Coach pitch, minor and major league teams will play double elimination tournaments at the end of the regular season. All games will be played by the end of the school year.

Softball Information

Softball teams will be assigned based on player age. Each team will play approximately 12 games during the regular season — six at Carmel Middle School and six “on the road.” Typically, games for each team are scheduled once during the week and once on weekends. Practices are generally held two to three times a week before the season starts and then once a week during the season.

Games will begin the week of Monday, March 23. A double elimination tournament will be held at the end of the season. The season will end prior to the end of the school year. Come join the fun in what has come to be known as the best girls’ softball program in Charlotte!

Sponsorships

SPYA is making a concentrated effort to fund the best baseball and softball programs possible. We need sponsors to make it happen. Training, equipment, uniforms, etc., cannot be fully funded by registrations. If you would be willing to sponsor a team, or if you have any leads for potential team sponsors, please contact SPYA treasurer Lynn Tucker at 704-843-4221. Thank You!

SPYA Night At Knights Stadium

Once again this year, we will be offering South Park night at Knights Stadium. It will be Friday, May 22nd, and more information will be provided as the event draws near. We sell tickets to this game as a fund-raiser for our programs. On SPYA night, our teams will be introduced and parade on the field before the start of the game. This is a fun and popular event that you won’t want to miss.

Tom Little Scholarship

SPYA has a scholarship fund in the name of our long-term president, Tom Little. We award one \$500 scholarship each year to a college student who has played a sport with our association. If you have an eligible student who is going to college next fall, please contact Lynn Tucker at 704-843-4221 or Treasurer@carolina.rr.com for an application.

Dixie Youth Scholarship

Dixie Youth also awards \$2000 scholarships to youth who have participated in Dixie Youth baseball for at least one season. Please contact Larry Brown at 704-906-5528 for an application. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2009.

SPYA Board of Directors

- Tom Little, President, tlittle19@carolina.rr.com
- Keith Register, VP & Football, kregister@carolina.rr.com
- Roy Rowe, Secretary & Baseball, rrowe5@carolina.rr.com
- Lynn Tucker, Treasurer, treasurer@carolina.rr.com
- Larry Brown, Baseball & Softball, lbrown@allbridgeinv.com
- Michael Klug, Basketball & Website, mklug@spyasports.org
- Ron Caldwell, Baseball, Ronald.caldwell@bankofamerica.com
- Rob Norris, Baseball, rnorris@vialogix.com
- Ed Brea, Baseball, ebrea@sterlingcapital.com

Thanks, SPYA Contributors!

PLATINUM \$1,000 - \$2,500+

Bob Mayberry Chrysler Plymouth Jeep
Carmel OB-GYN
McColl Partners
Sterling Capital Management-Ed Brea
The Willow Group / Bill Grigg
YTM Construction & Yates Custom Homes

GOLD \$500 - \$999

AAPCO Southeast, Inc.
ABS Insulating
Allbridge Investments/Larry Brown
Alston & Bird
Audi of Charlotte
Benefit Controls
Bluegrass Promotional Marketing, LLC
Boone Oakley
Brian Battle & Associates
Currin-Patterson Properties, LLC
Dickens-Mitchener & Associates
Ditesheim Cosmetic Surgery
Elam Group, LLC
Harris-Teeter
Henderson Properties
Hiddenite Gems Inc.
JDS Investments-John and Diana Smith

***YOUR SPYA NEWSLETTER IS
HERE!! What's Inside?***

- ** 2009 Registration Form Enclosed**
- ** Dick's Sporting Goods Coupons**
- ** Sign Ups February 7th, 14th, 21st**
- ** Sign Up Locations**
- ** Skills Day Saturday, February 28th**
- ** Make-Up Skills Days**
- ** Practices Begin March 7th**
- ** OPENING DAY CEREMONIES
April 18th (Day and Night)!!**



Keystone Partners
Kilpatrick Stockton
Laughing Buddha Yoga
Mac's Hospitality Group
McGinty Builders
Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
Open Finance Network
Richard and Elizabeth Otto
Pesta Finnie & Associates
Popielec Family
Valeriano Orthodontics
Vialogix
Wachovia Securities
Scott Ward

BRONZE \$300-\$499

Dick's Sporting Goods
Freda Robbins
Scott Davis & Associates

SILVER BOOSTER \$200 - \$299

Helms Mulliss & Wicker
Zebra Restaurant

BOOSTER \$10 - \$199

Ron Caldwell
Kathy Rideaux

SPYA Annual Meeting

The South Park Youth Association annual meeting will be Sunday, March 22, 2009, at Carmel Presbyterian Church (on the corner of Carmel and Sharon View) at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is open to all SPYA members. Sports commissioners will give their reports, and new board members will be elected. New directors are needed for several positions. Please consider joining the board, and contact Keith Register at 704-544-1809, if you are willing to serve.

**South Park Youth Association, Inc.
308 Armistead Court
Marvin, NC 28173**