

Coach Sharp – Spring 2010 Email Info

Just a quick reminder of a few key upcoming events for Stewards of the Game spring baseball:

- **Spring Baseball Registration Deadline is tomorrow, Saturday, Feb 20th. So PLEASE** get Your Forms in the mail the next couple of days if you plan to play this spring!!!
- **MANDATORY Coaches Meeting: Saturday, February 20th at Lake Forest Community Church from 3:00 - 5:00**
 - If you plan on coaching with us this spring, please make every attempt to attend this important session.
 - We will start with introductions and a devotion at 3:00.
 - We will then review the Stewards of the Game coaching philosophy, go over our registration results, plans for Skills Week, Player Drafts, Coaching Tools, Challenge Play, etc.
 - If you have been contacted to serve as a head coach, and for some reason you cannot make this meeting, please let me know.
 - Assistant coaches will be selected by the Head Coaches AFTER Skills Week and once the player drafts are complete.
 - So this is also a good opportunity for assistant coach prospects to meet some of the head coaches before Skills Week begins.
 - LFCC located on Gilead Rd...couple of miles west of Huntersville Exit #23 off I-77...on your right as you are heading west on Gilead Rd.
- **Have Baseball Gloves, Cleats or Black Baseball pants to donate???**
 - We have a number of kids who play with us who can't afford these items.
 - EXCITING...we have a number of coaches that have volunteered to hold informal baseball clinics the next couple of Saturdays in some under-resourced neighborhoods to see if we can identify some kids who would love to play baseball but can't afford to play or don't know how to sign-up. We would love to give out some gloves, cleats and pants at these clinics!!!!
 - Drop them by our neighborhood clinic tomorrow:
 - Saturday, Feb 20th at Abernathy Park from 11:00 - 2:00
- **Coaches Clinic: Saturday, February 27th at Huntersville Athletic Park from 10:00 - 12:00**
 - David Darwin of Core Athletics will be there to lead our clinic again this year
 - David, the owner of Core Athletics (a baseball academy in Concord) pitched at Duke and played 5 years in the pro's. David and one of his associates will be leading the clinic to review various pitching, throwing, hitting and fielding techniques. So bring your gloves and be ready to toss it around a bit.
 - Great time to meet other coaches and brush-up on the basic fundamentals we teach at Stewards of the Game

Make it a blessed day.

Mike

Spring Baseball Registration

Hope all of you had a wonderful CHRISTmas and are already off to a great new year!

Yes, believe it or not.....it's already time for spring baseball sign-ups. We want to offer all of our past Stewards of the Game baseball and basketball participants an opportunity to pre-register for our upcoming 2010 spring baseball season before the school flyers and church bulletins get

going; as we strive to build the best youth baseball program anywhere. Enrollment will be limited...so please send in your registration form today!

Stewards of the Game is a faith-based youth sports organization that teaches young people valuable life lessons through sports. Visit www.stewardsofthegame.org to learn more about the vision, philosophy, and passion of Stewards of the Game.

Registration Deadline: February 20, 2010

Two Convenient Ways To Register To Play!!!:

- **Dick’s Sporting Goods:** Join us for two special Registration Days on Saturday, **January 30th** and **February 13th** from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. hosted by Dick's Sporting Goods at their Birkdale Village store in Huntersville. Dick's will be offering valuable discount coupons for Stewards of the Game families who register in person.
- **Mail in Registration Form:** Additional forms for friends and neighbors available at www.stewardsofthegame.org or at Dick’s Sporting Goods at Birkdale Village through 2-20-10.

Coaching Philosophy and Overall Goals:

- ✓ Help players develop strong character values that will guide them throughout their lives
- ✓ Demonstrate an encouraging coaching philosophy centered on developing the whole player; Spirit, Character and Athletic Skills
- ✓ Concentrate on teaching the fundamentals of the game through repetition of proven techniques and drills; enabling each and every player to reach their full potential
- ✓ Promote a spirit of cooperation between coaches and players *across* team lines
- ✓ Emphasize team baseball; teaching players to put the team’s interest before their own
- ✓ Have FUN ... players, coaches, parents, and fans!

Key 2010 Spring Baseball Dates (*TENTATIVE***)**

January 10:	Registration begins	April 5-9:	Spring Break - SLCA
February 20:	Registration ends	April 17:	Practices Begin (13-16 yr. olds)
February 20:	Coaches Meeting	April TBD:	Davidson College: Stewards of the
Game Day			
February 27:	Coaches Clinic (a.m.)	May 3:	Games Begin (13-16 yr. olds)
February 27:	New Parent Orientation (p.m.)	May 15:	Home Run Derby
March 1–13:	Skills Evaluation Week	May 18–22:	Regular Season Games End (5-12 yr. olds)
March TBD:	Field Clean-up Day	May 31:	Memorial Day
March 13–14:	Teams Formed	June 1-Jun 8	Post-Season Tournaments (5-12 yr. olds)
March 15-20:	Practices Begin (5- 12 yr. olds)	June 10:	Last Day of School – CMS
March 26	Opening Ceremony for All	June 12:	Regular Season Games End (13-16 yr. olds)
March 27	Games Begin (5-12 yr olds)	June 14-22:	Post-Season Tournaments (13-16 yr. olds)
April 4	Easter	June 28–July 15:	All-Star Tournaments
April 5-9	Spring Break - CMS	July 18–Aug 14:	Registration for Fall Baseball!!!!

Season Highlights

- ✓ **Practices:** Three practices per week in the pre-season. Two practices per week when games begin. Practices last 1.5 - 2 hours and are centered on teaching sound, age-appropriate FUNDamentals, enabling each player to reach their full potential. (Fewer / shorter practices for the 5–6-year-olds.)
- ✓ **Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Baseball:** Stewards of the Game has been affiliated with Cal Ripken-Babe Ruth Baseball since 2002; covering Huntersville, Cornelius, Davidson, and Mooresville.
- ✓ **Regular Season Games:** Regular season games consist of inter-league play between Stewards of the Game teams. For our 13/14 and 15/16 year old Babe Ruth Division players, we will participate in intra-league play with neighboring Babe Ruth leagues in the area. Mid-week Babe Ruth games will not begin until after the school season ends.
- ✓ **AP Baseball:** The following programs provide **Advanced Play** opportunities for the more skilled ballplayers at specific ages:
 - **Challenge Play:** Challenge teams for ages 7-12 are assembled early in the season to provide the more advanced players with the opportunity to compete against other select teams in various Challenge, USSSA or Nations Baseball tournaments. These Challenge players will continue to participate on their regular season teams to reinforce the spirit of lifting others up; while having the opportunity to refine their skills against stiffer competition through periodic Challenge tournaments on off-weekends where regular season play is suspended.
 - **All-Star Play** All-Star teams selected at the end of the season will compete in Cal Ripken-Babe Ruth Area tournaments. Top teams from these tournaments will advance to State level tournaments; culminating in the Cal Ripken World Series. In the summer of 2009, our 8U, 9U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 15U and 16U All-Star Teams all advanced to their respective State Tournaments!
 - **Babe Ruth Elite Play:** Players age 13-14 with advanced skills will practice and play together as a unit all season; competing against other highly-skilled teams in a more advanced division of the Charlotte Babe Ruth league.
 - **Babe Ruth Metro League Play:** Players 18 & under who typically play JV or Varsity baseball for their high schools; and their coaches want them playing together as a unit during the summer. Our Metro League team is coached by a high school coach; they compete against Hopewell, North Meck and a variety of high school teams from Concord.

Fees

- The registration fee includes a practice t-shirt and embroidered hat that players keep. Players also receive home and away game jerseys that must be returned at the end of the season.
- Each player or family is also responsible for selling 12 raffle tickets at \$5 a piece. Tickets will be distributed at the beginning of the season. The cost of these tickets is charged to each family at the time of registration. Parents may either assist their child in selling the tickets (keeping the proceeds) or purchase the tickets themselves. (Note: Families with multiple players must only sell 12 tickets.)
- Parents are responsible for supplying a pair of black baseball pants and orange socks to be worn at practices and games. Dick's Sporting Goods has an assortment of black pants and orange socks available at their Birkdale location. (Note: Pants should be elastic or drawstring design for 5-10 year-old age divisions. For players 11 and up, pants should be belt loop design; with parents supplying an orange elastic baseball belt. **Babe Ruth players (13 and up) will wear gray pants with orange belts.**

Playing-Up or Down: All requests must be submitted in writing and approved by Age-Level Coordinators (ALC's) from both age divisions involved. Exception Request forms available at Parent Info link under Baseball Program button at www.stewardsofthegame.org. Exceptions only granted for players where ALC's feel strongly that playing within their age division would likely result in complete domination or injury.

Financial Assistance:

Stewards of the Game leagues, camps, and programs are available to everyone in the community, regardless of ability to pay. All we ask is that you pay what you can. Please note this on your registration form.

For more information, please visit our website at www.stewardsofthegame.org or feel free to contact any of the following individuals: Mike Sharp (coachsharp@aol.com), Kevin Hatley (Kevin.hatley@wachovia.com) or Bob Coughlin (rcoughlin@mi-connection.com)