



THE UMPIRE WEEKLY

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CLOSING CEREMONIES

Don't forget to save the date!

The Closing Ceremonies this season will be on Saturday, June 9th at 10am.

This is a very important event when we will announce the winners of the Hit-a-Thon, award prizes and announce the All-Star teams.

ALL-STARS

Contact a member of the board if you are able to help with the All-Star Tournament.

So, maybe you noticed and maybe you didn't, but there was no newsletter last week. We took the family to Disneyland for the week and we were disconnected from the normal routine all week long. Because of that, I do not have any rule situations to discuss this week. Instead, I'd like to take this opportunity to write about some upcoming events in the league and things that you should all be aware of.

HIT-A-THON

Yesterday was our first hit-a-thon ever. Historically, our primary fundraiser each year has been the Dinner/Auction. We decided to do something different this year; something that was more inclusive and family friendly. The idea of the hit-a-thon came up and we decided to run with it.

The idea was to have a fun day at the ballpark with kids hitting baseballs and softballs, yard games for the little kids, pitching for speed, some silent auction items, lots of small raffle items for the kids participating and even one large raffle item... a parking spot for next season and it was only a \$5 buy-in. We also wanted to offer concessions for the hit-a-thon and some fun items that we don't normally get... popcorn and cotton candy. These were very popular. We were able to offer food at a very reasonable price because of the donations from companies such as Nabisco, Frito Lay and New York Seltzer. We also had some very generous donations of items for the silent auction and raffle items from Chick Fil A, Mod Pizza, Dairy Queen, Cedar Creek Golf Course, Everett House Healing Center, IQ Credit Union, Lumber Yard and NW Futures. A huge thank you to all of our donors.

But, the biggest thank you has to go to all of the participants and their sponsors. Each participant collected sponsors that made donations either on a per hit basis or a simple flat donation. We had about 35% of the league participate and we had a great result. I don't know all of the numbers or dollars and cents, but I know that this event was more successful than dinner/auctions that we've done in the past.

MONEY RAISED FOR?

So, the logical question is, "what does the league do with all of this money we raise?" The answer to that question is complex. First, the money is used for regular daily operation of Battle Ground Little League. A lot of people don't know what kind of expenses that we have as a league. I'm not going to go through our entire budget here, but I will say that the registration fees we all



pay for our children to play does not cover all of the expenses the league has to pay.

For example, we have to rent the fields from the City of Battle Ground. We pay the school district for use of the practice fields at the various schools. We pay Little League International and Washington District 6 for participation in Little League. We pay for three different insurance policies to cover our players, our board and our assets. We buy uniforms, equipment, catcher's gear, helmets, bats, balls, umpire gear, field maintenance gear, field chalk, etc. We pay for trash service, porta-potties, water and electricity.

There's more, but I'll leave it at that for now. The point is, registration fees do not cover all of our operating expenses. So, beyond general operating expenses, the money we raise with our fund raisers such as the hit-a-thon is for additional maintenance, repair, upgrades and advancements. Some of the current items that we need to repair or replace include re-red rocking the three main fields; we need to replace the sunken home plates on the three main fields; and we need to replace a lot of our aging catcher's gear. The cost of these three items will be in the neighborhood of \$15,000.

WHAT'S NEXT?

So, the next events we have coming up are Closing Ceremonies and then, letting the cat out of the bag here, we are hosting the All-Star Tournament for the Minors Boys, 8-10 Baseball. What does that mean? It means that we need volunteers to help out at the tournament. There will be about 10-12 games over several days. Mostly we'll need people that can keep score. So, if you know how to keep score, please contact our Chief Scorekeeper and let her know that you can be the official scorekeeper for a game or two or three. If you don't know how to keep score, contact her to learn how.

We will also need field help. During regular season play, the home team sets up the field and the away team breaks it down. During tournament play, the teams are not responsible for this. We need a crew that can set up bases, chalk and rake between games. We'll also need an announcer/pitch counter for each game. The more help we get the smoother the tournament will go.

Finally, we need new members to join the Board of Directors. There will be several openings on the board at the end of this season. If Battle Ground Little League is to continue to thrive and be successful, we need new Board members. The new board for next year convenes on October 1st, so new members need to be selected and voted in by September. Please consider volunteering to keep our league going!

Thanks again to all of our volunteers... to all of our coaches, managers, team moms, score keepers, umpires, players and parents. This league is nothing without you! This is your league... it is what you make it... let's make it great!

As always, thank you for reading and...

PLAY BALL!

Contact Us

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