

I have run or coached in Horsham Challenger Little League, a coed baseball and softball program for persons with disabilities, since 2005. My son has autism, and played in the league when he was younger.

I am writing to ask that you let the special education students in your district - and their parents, teachers and aides - know about our program, including those in the post-12 programs. (We have no upper age limit.)

Although we offer a baseball program, I think we provide much more:

-  Socialization (for both players and their parents).
-  Outdoor physical activity.
-  A sense of accomplishment and pride for players.
-  Volunteer service opportunities for typical peers.

Students in your district have played or volunteered in our program in the past. Since we are a Challenger program (which many Little Leagues do not offer), we welcome players from all locations, not just Horsham.

Some students have even used their volunteer service with us as a Senior Project. One 2015 graduate from Hatboro Horsham High School not only ran a baseball tournament to support our league, but has also continued his fundraising to build a dedicated Challenger field (a “Miracle Field”). He has now raised over \$105,000 toward the project.

Our long-time sponsor, the Rotary Club of Horsham, funds registration fees for those who cannot afford them, regardless of residence, and on a “no questions asked basis” – it is enough that a family states that they cannot afford the regular registration fee.

I have placed our full registration announcement on my own district’s bulletin board at <http://www.npenn.org/cms/lib/PA09000087/Centricity/Domain/48/2016-2017%20School%20year/6.February/2017%20Horsham%20Challenger%20Little%20League%20Registration.pdf> I have also placed online extensive information about our program, as well as recreation for persons with disabilities generally at <https://horshamchallengernews.shutterfly.com/>.

However, you may prefer to use the following short notice to your students, parents and staff:

CHALLENGER BASEBALL FOR PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

Registration is now open for Horsham Little League Challenger baseball, for players with physical or mental disabilities. Non-competitive games are held on Saturday mornings and alternating Tuesday and Thursday evenings, beginning in early April, 2017, until mid June 2017 at Deep Meadow Park, on Route 463 in Horsham.

Our goal is to encourage participation and social interaction for players with disabilities. The biggest obstacle to participation by players with disabilities is the parent or guardian who says that he or she can't do it – our coaches and parents will work with you and your child to find what works for him or her.

As described in recent articles about our league (http://www.montgomerynews.com/articles/2015/04/01/public_spirit_willow_grove_guide/news/doc5514d4a5c140f696707174.txt and <http://horsham.patch.com/groups/sports/p/theres-no-handicap-in-challenger-division>), our players wake up looking forward to game days, since they know that they will have fun.

To register as a player or volunteer, contact Stan Jaskiewicz at sjaskiewicz@lawsgr.com, or (215) 241-8866 or see http://horshamlittleleague.com/custom_page?pageid=1170 or <https://horshamchallengernews.shutterfly.com/>. Empathetic teen volunteers are particularly welcome – baseball experience is not needed.

Horsham Challenger Little League is proudly supported by the Horsham Rotary and other benefactors, so that everyone who would like to play can do so, regardless of ability to pay the registration fee, or where you may live. Please circulate this announcement as widely as possible. Thank you.

Please feel free to contact me at 215-241-8866, or sjaskiewicz@lawsgr.com should you have any questions about playing in or volunteering with Horsham Challenger Little League. In addition, please feel free to forward this message to colleagues in your own or other districts who you think may be interested in our league for their students.

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