

## WHY AFFILIATE WITH LITTLE LEAGUE?



Today, when it comes to recreation and sports, it seems like children have more choices than ever – whether it's team sports, individual sports, or just playing video games.

The same is true for a community trying to decide which baseball and softball program they will have. Which program is right for your community?

Below are just a few of the reasons Little League Baseball and Softball is the program of choice – by far – for more communities than any other youth sports organization in the world.

- **It's affordable** – The annual charter fee is only \$13 per team. For most Little Leagues, the cost of belonging to the World's Largest and Most Respected Youth Sports Organization is less than 2 percent of the local league's budget.
- **It's easy** – Chartering with Little League is really very simple. For many leagues, the chartering process takes less than two weeks.
- **The World Series** – A true World Series is played in four divisions of baseball and four divisions of softball, with four other tournaments advancing to state level. And ALL EIGHT World Series tournament championships are televised nationally in the US on the ESPN family of networks. (Can ANY organization make that claim?) Making it to the granddaddy of all youth sports world championships, the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, happens to 16 communities around the world each year.
- **Instant recognition** – The words "Little League" have symbolized the very best in youth sports for more than six decades. Little League is played in more than 70 countries, and all 50 U.S. states. This year, at least 49 Little League Baseball and Softball games of the International Tournament will be televised nationally on ESPN, ESPN2, or ABC. No other youth sports organization comes close.
- **Little League pays YOU for travel** – For teams at each of the eight World Series tournaments, all expenses are paid by Little League.
- **FREE rule books** – Each league receives two free Little League rule books for each team chartered. Little League also supplies free materials for establishing constitution, by-laws, committees, etc.
- **Always on duty** – Little League has a free, full-time rules interpretation service by telephone and e-mail.
- **Umpire Registry** – For the men and women in blue, belonging to the Little League Umpire Registry is a way to keep up with the very latest news in rule changes and interpretations.
- **Training** – Little League offers clinics and seminars at various locations around the world each year for league officers, managers/coaches, and umpires.
- **Rule changes** – Through the Little League International Congress, local league volunteers have a democratic voice in changes to the rules and regulations.
- **Challenger Division** – Little League has a Challenger Division for physically and mentally challenged players, giving every child a chance to be a Little Leaguer.
- **Boundary protection** – No Little League program can "raid" players from another Little League program. In fact, the same rules and regulations apply to all chartered Little Leagues worldwide.

- **A healthy combination** – At its core, the purpose of Little League is to provide a safe, fun, wholesome combination of recreation and competition to players ages 5-18 through regular season play among local teams. For those players whose skills are more advanced, the Little League International Tournament provides the largest sports tournament in the world, with more than 40,000 games played each summer on the road to the various World Series tournaments. (Compare this to “travel ball” or “elite teams” for which parents pay exorbitant amounts of money, and players get burned out.)
- **Education programs** – Little League offers a variety of easy-to-implement programs for local leagues that help keep children safe, and make the game more fun for everyone.
- **Child protection** – Through the innovative Little League Child Protection Program, Little League was the first youth sports organization to mandate background checks on managers, coaches and other key volunteers. But it doesn’t stop with a mandate. Little League provides leagues with advice on how to perform the checks simply, and affordably.

