

South Portage Little League Connection



February 2009

Registration Still Open

Did you miss the two registration dates in January? Not to worry, there is still time to register to play baseball and softball at SPLL; however, to avoid a \$25 late fee you do need to register by March 1st. There are several options to choose from:

1. On-line registration is quick, easy and flexible. You choose when to register so it's easy to work it into your schedule! Payment is made at the time of registration using either your VISA, MasterCard or American Express card. On-line registration is provided as a service to you, to have this ability a service fee is applied by the on-line registration company which amounts to about a 6.5% service fee.
2. Skills Assessments are on February 21st (baseball) & 28th (baseball & softball). We will be running the assessments for Little Major & Major divisions 10:00 am—1:00 pm both Saturdays in the Portage Central Middle School gym. Simply stop by the registration table and register at that time.
3. Mail in the Registration form which can be found on the website: www.SouthPortageLL.com with payment to Registration, P O Box 523, Portage, MI 49081.
4. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Registrar Kathy Irwin 329-4985.

Fundraiser Candy Sale

Purpose: Profits from the Candy Sale help offset the cost of operating our league and maintaining our 10 field ballpark.



Why sell Candy? Without our fundraiser candy sale, we would need to raise our fees for registration on every player. However, we have several players who like to compete and love to sell candy. In fact, it could pay to sell Candy!

What and when do I sell? Each box of Hershey's contains 52 - \$1.00 candy bars. The candy sale runs from registration through April 30th. To be eligible for prizes, you must sell at least 5 boxes of candy.

Who do I contact about Candy: Joni Shore (secretary@SouthPortageLL.com or 324-6273)

What prizes can I win?: At Opening Day Ceremony, we will announce the top 3 sellers which receive the following:

Top Seller: \$100.00

2nd Place: \$ 75.00

3rd place: \$ 50.00



**WELCOME TO
Cici's!**

677 Romance Road
Portage, Michigan 49024

Come join us . . .

Thursday, February 12th, 11:00 am–8:00 pm

Simply mention while ordering that you are a part of SPLL and they will donate back to us!

Here's a great opportunity to eat & hang out with old teammates and talk about baseball & softball. You may even see some old coaches to stop in and say, "Hi ".



Training Facility Update . . .

With the help of some very dedicated volunteers like Steve Graham, John Kounelis, Mark Whitman, Tim Widup, Todd VanderBor, Tim VanderBor along with Mike Lightfoot & Dave Irwin, we can finally say, **“South Portage Little League is proud to offer the ability to train and develop our players YEAR ROUND!”**

Thanks again to everyone who at some point and time over the past couple of years has helped work on the training facility to make this a reality for our children to have available. This has been a very large task and could not have happened without the perseverance of our volunteers. The goal of having this facility is to retain little league players by offering the best development programs for every player on a year round basis.

We anticipate that the facility will be busy this spring with many teams and players. So, if you are interested in renting time in the facility, please contact Steve Graham at 323-8543 or 929-3114 to schedule your time. We are charging nominal fees to help offset the cost of having this tremendous asset. We look forward to seeing the facility being busy. The current fees are as listed below:

Rental Fees:	
<u>SPLL groups/families</u>	
Field Rental per hour:	\$30.
Hitting/Pitching lane per 1/2 hour:	\$ 5.

Rental Fees:	
<u>Non—SPLL groups/families</u>	
Field Rental per hour:	\$60.
Hitting/Pitching lane per 1/2 hour:	\$10.

What does our season look like?



With registration well under way, it's time to say "Thank you" to everyone for participating in Little League and talk a little bit of the "how we work and what is happening this upcoming season" especially for the new families to South Portage Little League.

Every Little League season begins with great expectations and excitement. The planning that league administrators and coaches do in advance of the season always pays off with smooth, fun, kid-focused seasons which have a positive impact on the players. This year is no exception here at SPLL.

The Board has planned out many of the necessary dates to start off the season. Be sure to check out the "Events on the Calendar" section of our newsletters to mark down in your own calendar so you don't miss out!

Probably most important fact to realize about any Little League is that we are a **100% Volunteer Organization**. Everyone is giving their time to run the League and the League needs everyone to participate to get it all done. Here at SPLL we can truly say that many fulfilling and lasting friendships have been forged over the 50+ years we have been a Little League Charter. We are always looking for enthusiastic individuals who will help coordinate events, coach, manage, and undertake the responsibilities of "getting it all done." We have a great Board willing to train and work with our volunteers.



This 2009 season we are still looking to have someone take on the role of Tournament Director. This person will help organize the "Special Games" tournaments. If you are interested or would like to get more information, please feel free to contact President Steve Graham 929-3114.

Another thrilling event this Post Season is that SPLL will be hosting the State Senior All Stars Tournament. We have hosted both Junior and Senior tournaments in the past. We want to make sure this is a fantastic experience for all of the visiting teams. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact Kathy Irwin 329-4985.

Each Spring we also need to go out to the complex prior to any practices and get the fields ready. We need to have as many workers come out and be ready to "get dirty." Time is spent raking, edging, and doing general cleanup. We ask that everyone bring their gloves, shovels & rakes with them if you can; however, it's more important to have the **PEOPLE** at the complex to accomplish what needs to be done. This past Fall we had several volunteers do some winterizing on fields, so hopefully this Spring will be quicker.



Then there is the volunteer job everyone is familiar with "Concession Stand Duty." Every family is required to participate as part of our fundraising efforts. Each family is required to volunteer for a minimum of 2 shifts per player during the season. Only workers 18 and older are allowed in the concession stand. The Concessions Director will send coaches the schedules at the beginning of the season to coordinate with games.

We also need to have a field director when the complex is open for games. This year, each team will be required to supply someone for a few different evenings (not necessarily the same person each time). One of the perks for this job is that you ride around on a cart. Responsibilities include raising the flags, getting first aid kits and scoreboard controllers out the fields, assist the handicapped fans, "weather watcher" and complex closer at the end of the evening. A full set of duties will be handed out to everyone who participates with this job.



Alas, as we sit and think about the numbers of hours the league is looking for us to "volunteer" this season, we should be mindful of all of the responsibilities that it takes to prepare, run, coach, umpire and clean to experience the thrill of our children playing ball. We have a small dedicated number of people who continually give hundreds of hours to us. The more people we have, the less each will have to do.

Thank you to everyone for stepping up, stepping in and seeing that our children all have the chance at a incredible experience.

~ President Steve Graham



The 2009 season is fast approaching! We had a solid turnout at registration and on line thus far. There is still time to sign up if you haven't already.

Remember that skill assessment for Little Major and Major levels are scheduled for Saturday, Feb 28 from 10am-1pm at Central Middle School. We look forward to having the girls come out and show their skills. The draft will happen soon after the skills assessment, so the girls should hear something from their coaches in early March.

We have set aside time at the Indoor Facility specifically for a **Drop in Softball Clinic**. It is on **Wednesday nights in March from 6pm-8pm**. All 6-11 year old girls can drop in and participate in fielding, throwing and hitting drills to help develop their skills. The cost is a mere \$5.00/player. The Softball Director is looking for coaches to help with drills during our Drop in Softball Clinic nights. If you are interested, please contact Laura Styrlund at Softball@SouthPortageLL.com.

Pictured below is our 2008 Junior All Star team. They were District 2 Champs and took 3rd in State!



Do you have any ideas, thoughts or articles you would like included with the newsletters? Send us a note and let us know: Newsletters@SouthPortageLL.com

South Portage Little League

P O Box 523

Portage, MI 49081



To: Current SPLL Families

Feel free to pass the news on.

Events on the calendar

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Sponsor Director Randy Newsome 329-4150
Sponsors@SouthPortageLL.com
Newsletter, Dana Pope 743-7177
Newsletters@SouthPortageLL.com

February 11	Mandatory Manager's Mtg. Baseball—CMS Little Theatre Softball-CMS Library	7:00—9:00
February 12	Ci Ci's Pizza night out	11:00 — 8:00
February 18	Board Meeting: Training Facility	6:30
February 21	Baseball Skills Assessments: Little Majors & Majors	10:00—1:00 Central Middle school gym
February 28	Skills Assessments: Baseball & Softball Little Majors & Majors	10:00—1:00 Central Middle school gym
March 7	District 2: Rules Clinic	8:00—3:00 KVCC
March 14	District 2: Rules Clinic	8:00—3:00 KVCC
March 18	Meet your Manager: (ages 5—10)	6:00—7:30 Central El.
March 21	AI & AI Clinic	8:00—3:00 KVCC
March 25	Board Meeting: Training Facility	6:30