**THE TEAM PARENT**

The Team Parent is an important job on any Little League team.  A good Team Parent helps make things easier on the coaches - and the team typically runs more smoothly with their help. The Team Parent’s duties and responsibilities are to do the administrative tasks for the team which will allow the coach to concentrate on coaching, the players and team development. Please meet with your coach to find out what their expectations are and how you can help.

Here are some suggestions on ways to help the team:

* **Communication with Parents -** Keeping the parents informed is crucial. Send email reminders for practices and games (and let parents know how early they need arrive before games). The coach will have a team roster which includes contact information for each of the parents.
* **Distribute Uniforms -** Team Parents can pick up uniforms once they are ready for their team.  Uniforms include a jersey, hat and socks.  In the Spring, coaches also receive a jersey and hat.  Check with your coach to see what color pants they want your team to wear and share that information with the parents prior to the first game.  Parents will need to buy pants for their child (they are not provided by GFALL).  Team pride is important. Having players in the same color pants adds to that pride! Ask parents to label all equipment clearly, including refreshing faded lettering. Keep a Sharpie on hand to help with this. Last names and phone numbers on hats, gloves, bats, helmets, and even water bottles and coolers have prevented many lost items and equipment mix-ups.
* **Create a Snack Schedule -** We recommend that Team Parents in the younger divisions put together a snack schedule to coordinate snacks following the games.  Please check with the other parents to see if there are any allergies on the team.  It is good to remind the next family at the previous game or with a text or email.  After everyone has done one snack, families can double-up (even triple-up) if a second time is needed.
* **Assist in Assigning Volunteers -**Encourage parents to volunteer to be scorekeeper or help with field maintenance (raking dirt, lining the fields, etc).  In order to volunteer, a volunteer form must be completed.  Your coach has extra forms in their folder or you can download one from our portal home page.  Once they are completed, return them to a GFALL Board Member or email them to gfall406@gmail.com- Keep your team page up to date with team information and photos. Make sure your parents are ok with photos or have them upload their own photos.
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* **Help Out During the Games *–***Sit (or other parents) in the dugout with the players to keep them focused on the game so that the coaches can be on the field. This includes reminding the kids of who is up to bat next, getting the catcher ready and helping kids to keep their equipment organized.
* **Picture Day -** We will have a Picture Day.  Once we have a schedule, remind parents that all kids need to be there even if they choose to not purchase, so a full team picture can be provided for those that do purchase. Arrival should be 15-20 minutes prior to picture time.  You may be asked to distribute photo order forms to all parents on your team in advance. Fall season is designed to be more low-key, so it's up to each team to take photos if desired.
* **Opening Day Support -**Volunteer on opening day (concessions tent, inflatables or skills competition).
* **Trophies -** In the Spring season, trophies may be provided to all Tee Ball and Machine Pitch teams.  The Majors and Minors baseball divisions will compete in a single elimination tournament following the regular season to determine the “City Champion Team.”  The Top Team will receive medals. If you would like to order trophies for your team, you can ask the parents on your team if they can split the cost.
* **Plan Team Party -** Some teams will celebrate the end of the season with a party.  It is a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of the team and thank the coaches and other volunteers who make the season a success.  Parks, restaurants and houses are good choices.  This is solely up to the team as to how they wish to celebrate their own season.
* **Lastly, Don't Do It Alone -** Do your absolute best at delegating tasks to those parents that are willing to help.