



MADISON COUNTY CHALLENGER BASEBALL

B U D D I E S

KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS
10-20
YEARS OLD

READ ME FIRST!

Being a buddy to our Challenger players is very easy (*you don't even have to like sports!*). If you haven't done it before, you'll feel like you have in just a few minutes. To help, here are some very simple thoughts:

- ❶ **The main objective of a buddy is to be a friend to our players.** The most important thing you can do is **talk to your player** and keep talking (even if your player doesn't talk back!). Laugh, have fun, see what's up.
- ❷ **It might take a few minutes to gauge how much assistance a player might need.** Don't be afraid to ask if you're not sure.
- ❸ **Don't catch a ball that is hit by a player (don't use a glove), and don't throw the ball.** If it gets by and they don't get it, take your player to the ball. Let them throw it. Any direction will do.
- ❹ **SACRIFICE YOUR BUDDY!** If a ball is coming pretty hard at your player, knock it down. Our first priority is our players' safety.

Here is some background information on the league and a registration form:

Kids that have physical and/or mental disabilities can play baseball on a team in the Madison County Challenger Baseball League. We're looking for buddies to help our Challenger players play baseball.

The Madison County Challenger Baseball League is open to any player from age 5 on up who has a developmental disability. Teams will play other teams with the same skill level.

Challenger players will play on the same fields, use the same equipment and wear the same uniforms (including jerseys, pants, socks and hats) as traditional teams.

The most fundamental goal of Challenger Baseball is to **make friends**. As our players make friends, we also play some baseball. Each player will bat every inning, and each player will play in the field.

No score is kept and nobody is ever out. Beyond following basic safety rules, Challenger will adjust certain rules to the skill levels of the children playing. (For instance, players can be pitched to by a coach, or they can hit from a batting tee.)

To help these kids, Challenger Baseball also provides for a "buddy" system (buddies are the main reason our players have fun!) in which young volunteers (ages from 10 to 20) can assist Challenger players when needed both at bat and in the field (in most instances, this program can be used toward required community service projects in your school). For instance, buddies can push players who use wheelchairs around the base paths after a hit, or take a player

to the ball when it gets past them. Among the many benefits of our buddy program is the social interaction between the Challenger players and buddies who don't have a disability. Our buddies gain valuable insights regarding people with disabilities and realize that they are not very different from themselves. Not only is participating in Challenger baseball rewarding for our buddies, but it is equally rewarding for our players. Many terrific friendships have been struck through Challenger Baseball. Our players think the world of our buddies.

The 2017 Madison County Challenger Baseball season starts Saturday, April 22nd at 10:30 a.m. at the Winston Brown Rec. Complex, 1325 Schiller Ave. in Edwardsville (the Rotary and Jaycee Fields).

For more information on Madison County Challenger Baseball, please email Paul at PByrd@fbmaryville.org or call 618-304-0098 or register at www.challengerbaseball.org

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CHALLENGERBASEBALL.ORG.

OR MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: MADISON COUNTY CHALLENGER BASEBALL, 7508 STONEBRIDGE DR, MARYVILLE, IL 62062

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____