



Fayetteville-Manlius Little League

www.fmlittleleague.com

Little League Charter since 1962

February 7, 2020

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Dear Fayetteville-Manlius Little League (FMLL) Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you and your family doing well as you eagerly await the Spring Baseball and Softball season. The FMLL Board of Directors has been hard at work in planning our 58th season and we promise that you will not be disappointed.

Please review the following information below which should bring you up to date on everything that is planned:

Registration:

Registration for our Spring Season has already begun. There are two ways that you can register:

- **On-site Registration:** This is an opportunity to meet our Board of Directors and ask any questions that you may have. This year's on-site registration will be taking place **Saturday, February 29th at the Manlius Library from 10am-12pm. The Manlius Library is located on 1 Arkie Albanese Ave in Manlius.**
- **Online Registration:** You can visit our website now at www.fmlittleleague.com to register online. Please note that once you complete the online registration process, you will be sent an email from our web provider, Sports Connect to confirm that your child is registered for the Spring Season. If you do not receive this email, I encourage you to contact me at vjkuss44@yahoo.com.

We were very happy to see that nearly 200 families took advantage of our early bird rates. Registration fees for the remainder of the 2020 season are:

-\$55 for T-Ball participants. These leagues are for our youngest participants ages 4-5 years old.

-\$65 for our Single A participants (Coach Pitch/Training League). The league is for boys baseball and girls softball ages 6-7 years old.

-\$90 per each Baseball and Softball Minor and Major League participants ages 8-12.

-\$120 for our Junior and Senior Baseball league. The age group for these participants are 13-16 years old.

-There is also a \$225 maximum rate for families with multiple participants

Full and partial financial scholarships are available – all children who want to play will be able to play. If paying all or part of the fee would pose a financial hardship to you and your family, please contact me at vjkuss44@yahoo.com. Inquiries will be kept confidential.

Payment options: When registering online you can only pay by credit card. Check, credit card, or cash options are available at our on-site registration. Please note that registration in our league is limited to residents of the F-M school district or to those students who attend a school within the F-M school district.

Please note that our website and registration software is now under a new parent company known as Stack Sports. What was once Blue Sombrero, has been rebranded to Sports Connect, under this company. As a result, a \$3 service fee is now being assessed by Stack Sports to our participants per transaction. We apologize for the slight increase with this fee but please know that the F-M Little League's registration fees are the (or close to) the least expensive fees within Central New York.

Frequently Asked Questions and League Descriptions:

Do you have questions like how long the season lasts or what type of equipment will I need to purchase for my child? If so, the league has developed a "Frequently Asked Questions" document that covers all of the leagues from Tee-Ball all the way up to our Juniors and Seniors. Please visit the www.fmlittleleague.com website and look for the "Frequently Asked Questions" and "League Descriptions" links to answer the questions that you may have.

Softball Winter Clinic being offered in March:

Registration for the FMLL Winter softball clinics is now open at www.fmlittleleague.com. The clinics are for Softball players league ages 8-12 and will be held on Sunday, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd at Sport Center 481 located on 6841 Collamer Road in East Syracuse. There are age-specific hitting/fielding clinics along with pitching and catching clinics that will be offered. The cost is \$50 per participant, but hurry as the sessions will only be open to the 1st 25 registrants per each age group. For more information please visit our website.

The Spring Season is right around the corner:

The spring season for our Baseball Major and Minor Leagues will start sometime during the week of April 13th and for Softball the following week of April 20th. These leagues typically end around the 1st week of June. Our Tee-Ball League (4-5 year olds) will begin on Saturday, May 2nd and run through June 14th. Our Coach Pitch Baseball (6-7 year old boys) and Softball Leagues (6-7 year old girls) will begin the week of May 4th and conclude on June 20th. Lastly, our Junior/Senior baseball league (13-16 year old boys) begins a little later in the season. Parents should begin to hear from their child's coach in late May/early June for our Junior/Senior league.

The schedule for our Major and Minor leagues is typically two games per week along with one or more practices per week as set by their coach. Attendance at games and practices is necessary. The FMLL prides itself on commitment and responsibility and each of our teams will learn this throughout their experience. This schedule is also typical for our Junior/Senior League. Our Tee Ball and Coach Pitch Leagues can also expect a two game per week schedule, however practices are not usually held for this age level. More information can be found by utilizing our "**Frequently Asked Questions**" document by visiting our website.

Little League International establishes a "league age" for players as determined by their date of birth. Our website has a Little League chart that will illustrate a player's "league age" This calculator can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age/>. The

online registration process will also lead you through the league age process. **There are no exceptions for players at any league based on ability. Players must participate in the division they are eligible for per their league age as set out by the F-M Little League Board of Directors.**

Volunteers are needed!

Throughout the Little League season, we will register about 80 teams and 800 participants. We will need volunteers to help make the FMLL a positive experience for all of our families. The entire FMLL Board of Directors are volunteers but we will still need parents to help out as well. During the registration process, you will be asked to indicate how you can help. I strongly encourage you to volunteer in some capacity if you are available.

You can help in several ways:

- **Managers and Coaches:** 80 teams means 80 managers, plus the assistance of additional coaches. Managers meetings and guidance are offered. If you have questions about managing or coaching, please contact me or make sure to ask during on-site registration.
- **Umpires:** All of our adult umpires are volunteers. We provide training, equipment, and support for those adults willing to help by umpiring. We also have opportunities for students, age 14 or older, to be paid a stipend for umpiring in our league, after they have completed our umpire training program. As you can imagine, we have several games being played per week so there are certainly opportunities for more umpires. If you or someone you know is interested, please let us know by sending an email to FMLittleLeague@AOL.com.
- **Snack Shack:** Our Brooklea fields in Fayetteville also have a Snack Shack that is typically open for our families during games. We are continuously looking for volunteers to help run our snack shack throughout the season. Not only is this an important service to our families, but also a fundraising resource for the League. Please feel free to contact me at any time at vjkuss44@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering some time at our Snack Shack.
- **Sponsorship and Donors:** Thank you to all of our Donors and Supporters each and every year! Your generosity has allowed the FMLL to remain accessible to thousands of children in our community for the past 58 years. Our sponsorship program allows the League to maintain affordable registration fees, provide scholarships to players in need, replace aged equipment, and support operational costs. Sponsorship may come in the form of one or all of the following: sponsorship of a team, a billboard sign at one of our fields attended by thousands of community members from April through October, or a cash donation to support the many equipment needs of the league.

Our annual sponsorship drive is underway. If you, your employer or business might be interested in pursuing a sponsorship opportunity, please contact Michele DeMaio Grace at 315-663-4628 or mrde Maio73@yahoo.com for more information.

Player Safety is a priority for the FMLL:

The safety and well-being of all participants in the FMLL is a priority for our League. This past year, the FMLL was fortunate enough to receive a *Grow the Game* grant from Little League International, Inc. The funds from this generous grant went to support the new batting cage that was up and running at our Manlius Fields starting last Spring. We also plan to conduct a full renovation of the Legion Softball Field in Manlius

scheduled in early April as a result of the funds received from this grant. Thank you to Little League International, Inc. for their generosity! The new batting cage and field renovation serve as two of the many initiatives that we implement annually to improve the safety and quality of the overall Fayetteville-Manlius Little League experience for our participants and their families.

Each year the FMLL creates a Safety Plan for our participants and their families. This plan is to ensure that our fields, uniforms, equipment and safety awareness efforts are all addressed prior to and throughout the Little League season. Once our plan is approved by our board of directors, we are required to submit it to Little League International, Inc. for their final authorization.

All local Little Leagues are required to conduct background checks on managers, coaches, board of director members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular services to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams. These are all steps we take in order to provide a safe and fun environment for your children.

Thank you!

In closing, I would like to acknowledge some of the individuals who make this Little League so special. I'd like to first thank our donors and supporters for their generosity each and every year! We are very grateful for your continuous support each year! I would also like to acknowledge our parent/family volunteers who help coach our teams, work at our snack shack and provide maintenance on a nightly basis to our many fields. We are very fortunate to have so many parents/family involved in this great league!

We also receive many gifts in kind for several services provided to the league annually and I would particularly like to acknowledge the Manlius and Fayetteville Departments of Public Works. Both of these departments are invaluable resources to the league and we are so grateful to the support they provide each year. I would also like to thank McGinnis-Nelson Construction, Inc. for their hours and hours of work in assembling and setting up our batting cage and turf in Manlius this past Spring; all of which they did free of charge to FMLL. Thank you to TH Kinsella, Inc. for donating the stone and Riccelli-Northern for donating concrete to support the project.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the Fayetteville-Manlius Little League Board of Directors. We have a passionate and caring board whose priority has always been to provide our participants with the best overall experience possible. Our board members spend hundreds of hours each year volunteering their time coaching, working at our snack shack, field maintenance and set-up, running clinics/Sommers Sandlot League, equipment management, website maintenance, umpiring, player development and so much more. Thank you for all that you do in making our Little League the premier league in all of District 8!

We look forward to another successful season! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at vjkuss44@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent J. Kuss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "K".

Vinnie Kuss, President
F-M Little League