

Buddy Training Packet

Welcome to the 2016 season of Buddy Ball. We are so glad that you decided to join us in creating an amazing summer. As a buddy, you are taking on one of the most important roles in the entire league. You are going to be directly making a difference in the lives of the players, their families and our community as a whole. If you were unable to attend the Buddy Training Session on May 7th, please read and complete this packet before your first game as a buddy.

What does the season look like?

All games will be played on Saturday. We have 8 teams, so we will be playing 4 games each Saturday. Start times for the games are at 9am, 10:30am, 12pm and 1:30pm. The dates are: May 21, June 4, 11, 25, July 9, 16, 23 and August 6. Each game will last approximately one (1) hour. Each team will bat completely through their lineup with each player getting on base. The last player in the lineup will score a homerun and bring everyone home. Then the teams will switch. This may happen more than once depending on team size and flow of game. Please visit the GC Dreamfield website to sign up for times and dates to be a buddy.

What does my role as a buddy look like?

Your main priority as a buddy is making sure that your player is safe. Safety is our number one concern. In addition, your role may include, but is not limited to:

- Helping your player bat, field the ball, run the bases, or simply being an encouraging voice. (Keep in mind that each player is different, as is their level of participation. Please make sure that your player is participating to the best of their ability. If you are not sure of what their ability level is, please consult with the parents/caregivers.)
- Arriving 15-20 minutes prior to your game(s) to meet your buddy and get organized before the start of the game. Also, upon arrival, please check in with the coach of the team you will be a buddy for. In the event that you cannot attend a game(s) that you have signed up for, please notify Kara Kralik via text message. (Contact information is on the back).
- Ask questions. We want to create a comfortable and welcoming environment for the players, buddies, volunteers and spectators. In order to do this, we need to keep an open line of communication going. Please don't hesitate to ask questions about your buddy, their disability, topics/activities they enjoy etc.
- Your main priority is your buddy. Make sure they are the center of attention for the time you are together. Our goal is to have them shine and enjoy the game of baseball.

How do I become trained to be a buddy?

There was a training held on May 7th where the volunteers and coaches took turns being a buddy and being a person with a challenge (ex. Using crutches, wearing goggles with a small field of vision, wearing ear plugs etc). The goal was to participate in a game from both angles. Due to the time crunch we are facing with the start of the season, there will not be another formal buddy training. In order to be a buddy from this point on, please complete the challenge listed below and reflect on your experience. Please fill out the attached form and return it before your first game as a buddy.

Additional questions?

Keep in mind that with this being our inaugural year, many of the questions you may have are questions we have too. We will be working on this together to develop our outline for the following years. Thank you so much for your time and willingness to help us create an amazing opportunity for some pretty special people. It is completely understandable to have more questions about the league, games, being a buddy and so on. Please do not hesitate to ask. Feel free to contact me with these questions. If I don't know the answer, I will find out and get back to you.

Email: kara.kralik@cvcsd.com OR karak@gcdreamfield.com

Phone: (216) 544-8123 (feel free to call or text)

Buddy Challenge

Think of an everyday activity. This could be making a snack, doing homework, playing video games or even taking a walk around the neighborhood. Simply select an activity that you would normally do and apply a challenge to it. Try making a snack with an oven mitt on your hands, do your homework with your non-dominant hand or walk around the block using crutches. Complete the reflection on the next page and share your thoughts.

Buddy Challenge Reflection

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

1. What was your everyday activity? What challenge did you apply to it?

2. What were your initial thoughts?

3. How did the challenge change how you completed the activity?

4. How did completing this challenge help you to better understand what being a buddy means?

5. Additional comments or thoughts?

I have read and understand the expectations of a buddy. I have completed my challenge activity and was honest with my answers. I understand that this is an important job and I am ready for a fun summer. If you agree to the above statements, please sign and date below and turn it into a committee member before your first game.

Name (Print)

Parent Name (Print) (If under 18)

Name (Signature)

Name (Signature)

Date

Date