



# 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.

## BUDDIES ARE THE NUMBER ONE REASON OUR PLAYERS HAVE FUN!

**K**ids that have physical and/or mental disabilities can play baseball on a team in the Challenger Baseball League.

*We are looking for kids and young adults who want to hang out with our players as they play baseball.*

The Southeast Missouri Challenger Baseball League is open to any player from age 5 on up who has a developmental disability.

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 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.)

Challenger Baseball also provides for a "buddy" system (buddies are the main reason our players have fun!)

Our buddies are young volunteers, between the ages of 10 and 20, who don't have a disability. The main goal for our buddies is to make friends as they assist our players on the field. For instance, buddies can push players who use wheelchairs around the bases after a hit, or help a player get a ball that gets past him or her. If you know someone who might want to be a buddy for Challenger Baseball, we could really use them at any game (or games!).

Among the many benefits of our buddy program is the social interaction between the Challenger players and the buddies who don't have disabilities. 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 players, but it is equally rewarding for our buddies. Many terrific friendships have begun through Challenger Baseball. Our players think the world of our buddies.

**Our first game is on Saturday, May 6th 2017 at the Sikeston Sports Complex, N. Ingram Road, Sikeston, Missouri. Games are always on Saturdays and start at 9:00 am. See the website for the schedule. We always need more buddies, so bring your friends!**

**For more information on Southeast Missouri Challenger Baseball, you can email [derrick@semochallenger.org](mailto:derrick@semochallenger.org). You can also call 573-683-1242, or register at [www.semochallenger.org](http://www.semochallenger.org).**



**Follow Southeast Missouri Challenger Baseball on Facebook!**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.SEMOCHALLENGER.ORG](http://WWW.SEMOCHALLENGER.ORG) OR MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: SOUTHEAST MISSOURI CHALLENGER BASEBALL, 919 STANFORD DRIVE, SIKESTON, MO 63801.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_