



# B U D D I E S

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:

**K**ids that have physical and/or mental disabilities can play baseball on a team in the Pike County Challenger Baseball League. We're looking for buddies to help our kids who want to play baseball.

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 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!).

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.

The Pike 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.

Among the many benefits of our buddy

**The 2017 Challenger Baseball season in Pike County starts Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 am at the baseball fields at Bowling Green Park.**

**For more information on Pike County Challenger Baseball, please call 573-754-3782, or email [katmcmahill@gmail.com](mailto:katmcmahill@gmail.com), or register at [www.challengerbaseball.org](http://www.challengerbaseball.org)**

**MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM (EVEN IF YOU'VE PLAYED BEFORE) TO: PIKE COUNTY CHALLENGER BASEBALL, 14788 PIKE 9246, CLARKSVILLE, MO 63336; OR REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.CHALLENGERBASEBALL.ORG](http://WWW.CHALLENGERBASEBALL.ORG)**

REGISTRATION FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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