

Fund Raising

Fund raisers are essential to our Little League's survival. Without them we would (1) have to increase our registration fees for all age levels and (2) we would never be able to make any improvements to the complex --- or even be able to maintain the facilities we currently have.

Over the past several years we have heard from numerous parents who are not interested in participating in our fund raisers and would simply prefer to fulfill their fund raising obligation by making a donation to the league, similar to what other youth sports programs in the community offer.

In response to that parental feedback, the SWFL Board of Directors has developed the following plan to streamline our fund raising initiatives. The two options are as follows:

- (1) "Opt In" --- In addition to your registration fee(s), your family would "opt in" to the fund raising efforts by paying a \$50 fee at the time of registration (which is a per family fee -- not a per player fee). In exchange, you will be given five \$10 discount cards for area businesses that you can sell to recover the \$50 charge. You keep whatever money you collect from the sale of the cards.
- (2) "Opt out" --- In addition to your registration fee(s), your family would "opt out" of the fund raising efforts by paying a one-time fee of \$40 at the time of registration that will cover your fund raising obligations. If you typically have been unable to sell the discount cards in years past, this is the option you should choose. Thus, because you are opting out, you will not receive any discount cards to sell -- and your fund raising obligation is complete! This option allows your funds to go directly towards our fundraising goal for the 2009 season.

Please note that both fundraising options are "per family" and not per child and that payment of the fund raising fee (whether you are opting in or out) is due at the time of registration.

*****Please note that SWFL will still hold its annual Reverse Raffle and would request that you participate in this fun event --- details to follow once the spring season kicks off!**

Concession Duty

We have also had similar feedback regarding concession duty obligations over the years. Specifically, many parents have commented on their evaluation forms and during parent meetings that they would prefer to simply pay a one-time fee (to be used to hire a teen) in lieu of having to work in the concession stand. This year, in response to that feedback, we are also offering an "opt in"/"opt out" program for the concession duty, described as follows:

- (1) "Opt in" -- if you choose to opt in, that simply means that you will be required to work during your team's assigned concession duty. (If you have more than one child playing at SWFL, you will be required to work a shift for each of the teams on which you have a child playing). If you fail to show up for your assigned concession duty, your child will be suspended for a game.

- (2) "Opt out" – if you choose to opt out of concession duty, you will pay a \$20 PER CHILD fee (not a one-time fee per family) and the League will coordinate the hiring of a teenager to work your Concession Duty.

Again, both of these initiatives are being offered in response to strong parental feedback regarding fund raising and concession duty obligations. The intent is to provide those parents who desire to simplify their lives somewhat an opportunity to do so by paying a fee in lieu of having to sell discount cards or work in the concession stand during the season.

This is a new approach for us at SWFL, and I am sure there will be questions. If so, please do not hesitate to email me or Warren Bates, our treasurer.

Thank you in advance for your support of our league in 2009!