

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Western Duluth Little League

May, 2018



OPENING DAY 2018

Western Little League will be hosting our second annual **Opening Day** on **Saturday, May 5, 2018**. Throughout the day, our teams will play games against other Western opponents. There will be a skills session for our Intro League players as well. Other activities will include team photos, an opening ceremony, field clean-up, and plenty of food and prizes. The schedule is as follows.

9:00 AM Field Clean-Up

All families are invited and encouraged to help spruce up the field grounds before the start of the season. We need people to help pick up garbage, rake, weed-whack, etc. **Participating in this event qualifies as part of the hours necessary to earn your volunteer fee refund.**

11:00 AM Intro League Skills Session

11:30 AM Opening Ceremony Line-Up

12:15 PM Opening Ceremony

1:00 PM Angels vs. Cubs (Field 1), Cardinals vs. Nationals (Field 2)

2:45 PM Orioles vs. Yankees (Field 1), Cardinals vs. Royals (Field 2)

4:30 PM Dodgers vs. Twins (Field 1), Royals vs. Nationals (Field 2)

TEAM PICTURES

1:00 PM Grasshoppers

1:20 PM Lake Monsters

1:40 PM Mudcats

2:00 PM Sand Gnats

2:20 PM Royals

2:40 PM Angels

3:00 PM Cubs

3:20 PM Nationals

3:40 PM Dodgers

4:00 PM Twins

4:20 PM Orioles

4:40 PM Yankees

5:00 PM Cardinals

We expect all of our players and families in attendance at this important and fun event. Players should plan on enjoying a full day at the ballpark. If you have questions regarding the Opening Day festivities, please visit

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org or contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 5, 2018

WDLL Opening Day

MAY 6, 2018

WDLL Chipotle Fundraising

Night: 4:00-8:00 PM

Chipotle Mexican Grill, Miller Hill Mall

MAY 7, 2018

Duluth Umpire Clinic (Major/

Minor): 5:30-7:30 PM, Lake

Park Little League

WDLL Safety Training: 6:30-

8:00 PM, Canal Park Lodge

MAY 8, 2018

Duluth Umpire Clinic (Duluth

709): 5:30-7:30 PM, Lake Park

Little League

WDLL Safety Training: 6:30-

8:00 PM, Canal Park Lodge

MAY 10, 2018

CDC Concussion Training Cer-

tificates Due

MAY 14, 2018

Minor League Regular Season

Starts

MAY 15, 2018

Major League Regular Season

Starts

MAY 22, 2018

Rookie League Regular Season

Starts

TBA (MID-MAY)

Intro League Regular Season

Starts

Tournament Team Evaluations

JUNE 1-3, 2018

Roger Peterson Baseball Tour-

namment



2018 SAFETY TRAINING

Western's annual **safety training** sessions for managers, coaches, and board members will be held **Monday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Canal Park Lodge (250 Canal Park Dr.)**. Topics covered will include first aid, CPR, AED, and King-Devick concussion training. Pizza will be provided. Attendance at only one of the sessions is required.

This training must be completed by all managers, coaches, and board members once every three years. Please contact WDLL Safety Officer Kari Bulthuis at safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org **no later than Saturday, May 5** to confirm which night you will be in attendance.

If you have questions, please contact safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

KING-DEVICK CONCUSSION TESTING



Once again this year, WDLL will offer the **King-Devick baseline concussion test** for

all of our players. New this year, umpires will also be tested.

This test is administered using an iPad. Players are required to read a series of numbers and are timed. The data is saved and, in the event of an injury where a concussion is suspected, the player retakes the test in the dugout. If the player completes the test with errors or a slower time, he/she needs to be evaluated by a physician.

More information regarding the King-Devick concussion screening, including video tutorials, may be found at <https://kingdevicktest.com/products/concussion/sideline-concussion-screening/>.



CDC CONCUSSION TRAINING

Each year, **all Western managers, coaches, umpires, and board members** are required to complete the CDC's "Heads Up" concussion training program prior to the start of the season.

If you are planning on serving as a manager, coach, or umpire this year, please click here to complete the training...

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=5938837

THE TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 10.

IMPORTANT!!! When you complete the training, you must email your certificate of completion to WDLL Safety Officer Kari Bulthuis at safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org! Otherwise, you may be forced to complete it again.

If you have questions, please contact safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org

2018 COACH REGISTRATION

If you are coaching at Western in 2018 and have not yet registered as a coach, please do so by going to our website, www.westernduluthlittleleague.org and clicking on "2018 Regular Season (Coaches/Volunteers)" at the top of the page.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service!

2018 UMPIRE REGISTRATION

If you are interested in umpiring for WDLL this year, please register on our website, www.westernduluthlittleleague.org. Click on the "2018 Officials" tab at the top of the page.





DULUTH LITTLE LEAGUE UMPIRE CLINICS

There are a series of umpire clinics being held for all umpires in all four Duluth Little League associations (Western, Central, Eastern, and Lake Park). These events are being run by Chad Clore, MN District III Little League’s new Umpire Trainer and a former professional umpire. These clinics are designed to teach the fundamentals of umpiring to both new and experienced umpires.

If you are interested in umpiring at Western in 2018, you must attend one of these clinics.

Dates and times are as follows. The clinics will be held at Lake Park Little League on the corner of Jean Duluth and Riley Rds.

- Major/Minor League Umpire Clinic:** Monday, May 7, 5:30-7:30 PM
- Duluth 709 Umpire Clinic (Ages 13-15):** Tuesday, May 8: 5:30-7:30 PM

If you have questions, please contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

2018 PRE-SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The pre-season 2018 WDLL practice schedule is available on our website by clicking here: www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/calendar.

This schedule applies only up until the start of the regular season. Once the season begins, the fields will be occupied Sunday-Thursday with games. There will be **no practices on Saturday, May 5**. This is our annual Opening Day celebration.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Family involvement is critical in order to ensure that WDLL maintains its standing as one of the premiere Little League associations in northern Minnesota. Every season, we ask for your help in this endeavor.

If you would like to volunteer at Western this season, please visit www.westernduluthlittleleague.org and click on the “2018 Registration (Coaches/Volunteers)” tab on the home page.

Volunteering at least eight hours during the course of the season will allow your \$50 volunteer fee to be refunded.

There are several ways to volunteer at Western...

- ~Board Of Directors
- ~Managers/Coaches
- ~Concessions
- ~Field Maintenance
- ~Umpires
- ~Fundraising

We are also open to your suggestions as to what you would like to help out with.

Please note, in addition to registering on our website, all volunteers will be required to fill out the Little League Volunteer Application form and submit to a background check before assuming their duties.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service!

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULES

Baseball season is almost here! Regular seasons will tentatively begin on the following dates...

- Minor League:** May 14
- Major League:** May 15
- Rookie League:** May 22
- Intro League:** TBA (Mid-May)



FUNDRAISING

As the new season begins, we are again ramping up our efforts to raise money. Ultimately, all funds raised will benefit the current and future generations of players at Western.

This season, we hope to begin the process of building a new concession/storage facility, upgrade fencing, and install grass infields. If you would like to donate, or if you have ideas for future fundraising projects, please contact fundraising@westernduluthlittleleague.org. Thank you for supporting Western Duluth Little League!



ONLINE DONATIONS

Please consider supporting WDLL with an online, tax-deductible donation. Please visit

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=848788 and click on the "2018 Fundraising" button on the left side of the page.

BUFFALO WILD WINGS TEAMMATE CARD



EXPIRES 7/29/18

When you show this card at Buffalo Wild Wings throughout the spring and summer, they will donate 10% of your purchase to WDLL! Please click the link below to download your Teammate Card.

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=848788



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISING NIGHT

**Sunday, May 6
4:00-8:00 PM
Chipotle Mexican Grill, Miller Hill Mall**

Chipotle will give WDLL 50% of proceeds when customers mention our organization!

DULUTH HUSKIES CARDS



WDLL is now selling Duluth Huskies coupon cards. The cost is \$25. If you would like to purchase one, please contact WDLL Rookie League Coaching Coordinator Anthony Pierce at rookieleague@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

rookieleague@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

NEW USA BASEBALL BAT STANDARD



On January 1, 2018, Little League International implemented the new USA Baseball Bat Standard. **BATS THAT WERE LEGAL IN 2017 AND PREVIOUS YEARS ARE NO LONGER LEGAL.**

Beginning January 1, 2018, **ALL bats must be marked with the following label in order to be used in Little League Baseball...**



If you have questions on this new standard, please visit www.littleleague.org or www.usabat.com.



WDLL TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The Western Tournament Teams provide an opportunity for WDLL players to experience a significantly higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players will have a significantly higher level of commitment and will receive a higher level of instruction to compete against other Tournament Teams.

The 2018 WDLL Tournament Team Evaluation sessions will be held in May. Dates and times are TBA.

More information about the 2018 WDLL Tournament Teams will be announced as the season gets underway, but the preliminary schedule of tournaments appears below.

TENTATIVE 2018 TOURNAMENT TEAM SCHEDULE

June 1-3, 2018: Roger Peterson Baseball Tournament, Western Duluth Little League

June 22-24, 2018: Proctor Youth Baseball Tournament, Proctor Little League

MN District III Tournament: TBA (July)

July 27-29, 2018: Superior Last Chance Tournament, Superior Youth Organization (Ages 11-12) & Carlton Daze Tournament, Carlton/Barnum Little League (Ages 9-10)

August 3-5, 2018: Art Von Tournament, Lake Park Little League

“There are three things the average man thinks he can do better than anyone else: build a fire, run a hotel, and manage a baseball team.”

~Rocky Bridges~

ROGER PETERSON BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



Western Duluth Little League will host the 3rd annual Roger Peterson Tournament June 1-3, 2018. This year, the tournament will feature teams at the 14/15, 13AA, 12U, 11U, and 10U age levels.

Western’s 12U team has won their division of this tournament each of the last two seasons, and our 13 year-old Intermediate team finished second last year.

This event is named in honor of longtime WDLL coach and board member Roger Peterson, who is pictured above. Roger began coaching in 2002 and has been on the board since 2004.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hot dogs are the most popular ballpark food item. During the 2014 baseball season, fans ate almost 21.4 million hot dogs at MLB stadiums. That’s enough to stretch from Los Angeles to Chicago.



CONTACT US



www.westernduluthlittleleague.org



info@westernduluthlittleleague.org



Like Us On Facebook!