

2010 Junior Giants Parents Meeting

City of Medford Staff:

Rich Rosenthal - Recreation Superintendent

Jenn Hedgepeth - Facility Supervisor

Address Questions/Comments to:

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(541) 774-2400

About Junior Giants

- Player/Parent handbook
- Core Enrichment Programs:
 - Four Bases of Character Development: Confidence, Leadership, Integrity, Teamwork
 - Education program - Round the Bases Reading Program
 - Violence prevention program - Imagine Peace Art Contest
 - Health program – nutrition magnet

Winning/Losing Not Important

- Standings and scores are not kept
- Junior Giants is about skill and character development, not winning/losing
- Positive attitudes expected from everyone, including spectators
- Be involved in helping your child(ren) do the Junior Giants program

Practices

- Practices begin the week of June 28 at city park sites
- One practice per week once game schedule begins
- Coaches determine practice days and times and are responsible for notifying parents
- Practices last approximately one hour
- Please do not drop your kids off and leave (unless special circumstances arise); practices are not a child-sitting service!

Team Assignments

- MPRD randomly assigns players to teams
- Average cumulative age of each team will be even
- MPRD staff will contact you no later than Tue., June 29 regarding site and time of the first team meeting
- Make sure your contact information is up-to-date in the City's registration system

Special Requests

- Junior Giants is about meeting and making new friends. Only the following "special requests" will be considered:
 1. Wanting brothers/sisters to play on the same team (if within same age group)
 2. Special circumstances (transportation or logistical issues)
- Wanting a certain coach or friends/neighbors to play on the same team typically do not constitute "special circumstances"
- Fill out a special request form at the end of the meeting

Games

- Games will be played at Bear Creek Little Fields – starting week of July 12
- T-ball games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays nights at 5:45 or 7 p.m.
- Machine pitch games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights, 5:45 or 7 p.m.
- Teams play twice per week
- Season will consist of a minimum of eight games and a maximum of 12
- Rained out or weather-shortened games will not be rescheduled

Uniforms

- T-shirts and hats will be provided and must be worn to all games.
- Players need to provide their own gloves, if possible
- We do have a limited supply of “loaner” gloves - notify your coach at the first practice

Equipment (for games and practices)

- All essential game-related equipment is provided by the Junior Giants organization
- Hats, t-shirts, photo forms, schedules, handbooks will be distributed at first practice

Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times during practices and games
- Shoes must be closed-toed --- no sandals or flip-flops permitted
- Tennis shoes are recommended
- Participants may wear rubber-molded cleats

Weather Issues

- There's no obligation for any child to play in questionable weather – it's up to the parents
- Always assume games will be played as scheduled unless listed otherwise (hotline, website)
- If there's a question, check the sports hotline – 774-2424

Team Photo Day – July 14 (t-ball) or July 15 (machine pitch)

- The City of Medford contracts with LifeTouch for team photography – no obligation to buy
- Bring photo order form to Photo Day
- Photo order forms will be distributed to parents by coaches at first team meeting
- Teams will play abbreviated games on Photo Day due to time limitations

Coaches

- The league depends on volunteers
- We seek volunteer coaches
- No previous coaching experience needed – we'll train you on the basics
- About 4 ½ hour time commitment per week
- Chance to coach your child – and to make a positive difference in children's lives
- Coaches are expected to carry out the “Junior Giants” program
- City policy requires criminal background check on all coaches
- If you'd like to volunteer, see Jenn after the meeting to fill out 3 forms

Coaches Meeting

- Coaches meeting next Friday, June 25, 6 p.m. at the Santo Community Center
- Agenda: team rosters, game schedules, equipment, uniforms, practice times, training on how to use the pitching machines, etc.

Junior Giants Day Tickets

- MPRD will receive approximately 200 free tickets for participants and parents to attend a San Francisco Giants game at AT&T Park on Sun., Aug. 15 vs. San Diego at 1:05 p.m.
- Coaches are asked to ask parents if they are interested in attending the game. A higher priority given to kids with excellent attendance and good attitudes
- Transportation and other expenses are the responsibility of the parent(s)
- More details to come as season progresses

Local Junior Giants Day

- A season-ending BBQ is planned at Bear Creek Little League fields on Tue., Aug. 17 (tentative)
- Local Junior Giants awards presented
- Each coach and program participant receives a FREE hot dog, chips and drink. Additional meal tickets cost \$3 per person