

AZ Sunshine League, Inc. 2019

20 Years Ago...

"I want to play soccer like my brother and cousin." One simple statement from Cory was the birth of the AZ Sunshine League.

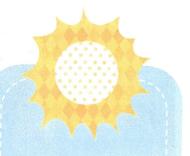
Cory came to me one day wanting to play soccer too. He didn't understand why he couldn't play. As a family, we spent a lot of time on soccer fields. I told him he was right. There was no reason he couldn't play. Soccer is a very easy sport to play.

We talked as a family, I talked with the other members of the board of our soccer club, and within a few weeks we started the new program. We were the first special needs soccer program in the State of Arizona. We had no one to help us. So we decided what we wanted the league to be: Open to all, free, fun and a place to promote health and well being and socialization for children with special needs.

Mistakes were made. Such as regular uniforms that most did not want to wear because they did not want to touch the material and all wanted the same number! So we turned to t-shirts for everyone.

Wonderful sponsors have been found to allow us to continue free memberships for all members. Without the St. Paul Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Thunderbirds Foundation we would not have been able to continue our program for 20 years. We would not have been able to replace all our equipment three years ago when it was stolen during the holiday break. These sponsors have been the lifeline of our program. They are the reason we are able to pay field rental each session, buy t-shirts and trophies every other year, have kite day and holiday parties each year.

We have had almost 200 members in our program since its inception. Some of those early members are still coming every week now to participate as volunteers. Tom, Megan and I are so proud of Cory and Ben. We look forward to the next 20 years of the AZ Sunshine League.



Winter-Spring, 2019

1/6/19		Yes
1/13/19		Yes
1/20/19	MLK DAY WEEKEND	NC
1/27/19		Yes
2/3/19		Yes
2/10/19		Yes
2/17/19	PRESIDENTS' DAY	NO
2/24/19		Yes
3/3/19		Yes
3/10/19		Yes
3/17/19		Yes
3/24/19		Yes

ASL will be taking Jan 20th and Feb 17th off for the MLK and Presidents Day holidays so our families can spend time with friends and family.





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20th Anniversary



THE HERO OF THE GAME, BEN A.

SUNSHINE LEAGUE Y LTD SKILLS

ON MARCH 20TH AZ SUNSHINE LEAGUE VETERANS PLAYED THEIR FIRST GAME AGAINST ANOTHER TEAM. THEIR OPPONENT WAS ADULT CO-ED TEAM LTD SKILLS. THE GAME ENDED IN A TIE, 6-6! OUR KIDS DID GREAT.

THE SUNSHINE LEAGUE WAS LED BY BEN A.
BEN MADE SURE NO ONE GOT OFF EASY SHOTS ON
TEAM GOALIE COACH TOM (TOM PLAYED KEEPER
FOR THE KIDS SO ALL TALENT COULD PLAY ON
THE FIELD). BEN ALSO SET UP SEVERAL GOALS
AND SCORED ONE HIMSELF!

LTD SKILLS' SCORING WAS LED BY ABDU DAHR. OF COURSE HE IS A FORMER PROFESSIONAL PLAYER, SO IT WAS KIND OF EASY FOR HIM. HE SCORED ON A BICYCLE KICK AND OTHER TRICK SHOTS. MEGAN OLIVER EVEN SCORED AGAINST US, WHAT A TRAITOR!

LTD SKILLS HAD SO MUCH FUN THEY WANT TO PLAY US ANYTIME! OUR NEXT GAME IS MAY 22ND AGAINST KELSEY BIERNOT'S CCV TEAM.





Thank You!!

Both the Thunderbirds and Knights of Columbus have come through for us again! We have received \$1,000 from the Thunderbirds and the Knights collected \$1,650.00 during their Tootsie Roll Drive. Without these two organizations the Sunshine League could not pay for our field rental or buy shirts or trophies for our program.

Welcome to the 16th year of the AZ Sunshine League. 2015 was a great year for our program. We added over 30 players and families.

In 2016 we are hoping to schedule several days of games for our older players against other teams. We are looking for additional donations to pay for needed field time to hold the games. We will keep you updated on the progress of this plan.

One way of raising funds is through the AZ Gives Day organization. We have started the process of joining this great program. This will allow us to raise additional funds for our program.

We will again have two Water Days scheduled during the hot summer months this year. Watch future newsletters for the dates.

If you have anyone in your family that needs to complete volunteer hours for school, please talk to Jill.





2016



