

VFW Teener Baseball Needs Post Support



For many years, thousands of teenagers have turned to VFW sponsored baseball leagues to hone their skills, stay in good physical condition and participate in safe activity that builds young adults into responsible leaders. And most importantly, just to have a lot of fun playing an All-American sport.

However, like any other youth program, funds are needed to keep **VFW Teener Baseball** going strong. While the level of continuous support was once statewide, VFW Teener Baseball now largely exists in pockets of Pennsylvania where some post sponsorships continue.

Department officials recently met with leaders of VFW Teener Baseball districts, who thanked the VFW for its past support, while respectfully asking for a higher level of sponsorship. Without greater financial support, playoff tournaments and the existence of some teams may be in serious jeopardy. If the American Legion can donate funds for their own teams, then the VFW should be able to meet that same challenge. The VFW can accomplish this with a team approach.

So, how can your post help? When an existing VFW Teener team approaches your post for continued funding, please consider using your community service dollars to not only provide that support, but also add to your past giving. Maybe instead of just sponsoring one team, you can donate additional funds to sponsor a league. Also, if you hear that the state playoffs are coming to your area, be generous in how your post supports this highest level of PA VFW Baseball competition. Running a tournament takes money to provide food, trophies, umpires and to cover other expenses. Your help is needed.

If your post does not sponsor VFW Teener Baseball now, contact Department HQ to express your interest. A donation of even \$500 can make a difference of whether a team can afford to play next year.

What does your post get out of it? Your sponsorship shows the community that the VFW is much more than just a place to socialize. You'll get good PR among the player families (some of who are veterans) and among the community through news coverage of VFW baseball events. You will also get the opportunity to throw out the first pitch, provide color guard services and partner with military units during ceremonies. What other donation gives you the ongoing benefit of having the VFW promoted at every event and in your local paper throughout the season? You'll gain a reputation as a good neighbor and as a place that veterans will want to support.

Regardless of the size of your post, you can "Play Ball" by supporting VFW Teener Baseball. Districts can also get in on the action by donating money to support this terrific youth sports tradition. For more information contact the State Adjutant at HQ, (717) 234-7927 or email adjutant@vfwpahq.org.