

Sent November 6, 2018

Updates & Info for HABC Boosters

Hello Parents and Boosters:

You are receiving this email because you are a current 2018-2018 Hays Athletic Booster Club (HABC) member or former member. This school year is flying by, and we have already seen some fantastic successes by our Hays Rebels student athletes -- including playoff berths in volleyball and football, regional and state competitors in Cross Country, top individual finishers in golf along with team placers, solid team play in tennis and swimming, and more! The Rebels are just tipping off play in both girls and boys basketball and the other winter sports. It's really a fantastic time to be both a Hays Rebel and a Hays Rebel fan!

Here's an update on Booster membership; total # of members (confirmed/paid): **134**.

- Sport by sport membership breakdown:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| ○ Baseball: 12 | ○ Soccer: 8 |
| ○ Basketball: 32 | ○ Softball: 10 |
| ○ Cross Country: 15 | ○ Swim: 8 |
| ○ Football: 57 | ○ Tennis: 10 |
| ○ Golf: 10 | ○ Track: 29 |
| ○ Powerlifting: 6 | ○ Volleyball: 26 |

Note: These numbers do not add up to 134 because some members represent kids in multiple sports or multiple athletes.

- Membership Drive ongoing. Please encourage your fellow team parents and family and community members to join the HABC! They can join via the website:

<https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/membership>

Last year, we had a fewer than 90 booster club members, so this is a big improvement, but we have a long way to go to reach our goal! With approximately 700 student athletes, we should have at least 300 booster club members. (See our booster goals below.)

As I mentioned in my last update to you -- we need parent volunteers to join the booster club -- to be active participants -- and to encourage other parents to do the same. **Please spread the word to other parents: If your kid participates in a sport at Hays High School, you should be a member of the boosters. Period.** Does that sound heavy-handed? Maybe. But the fact is that our school and our coaches cannot handle all that is required of them without our help. Just like any family... everyone plays an important role and our role as the booster club is to fill in the gaps. Please get involved by volunteering when you see the "asks" from the coaches or from us at the booster club. We need you. Follow our social media posts -- Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter -- for updates and information and share those with others. Come to the booster club meetings and jump in, speak out, ask questions, send in information for sharing, let's make the Rebels family stronger!

Here are some upcoming ways that you can get involved in supporting the Rebels.

- Volunteer to help with concessions for one of the upcoming boys/girls basketball tournaments. The tournament dates are below. **NEW this year: the boosters are coordinating with a food truck vendor to supply some of the concessions in order to free up parents so that you can go and watch your athletes compete.** However, we still need concessions help on some of the dates shown below. Sign up via the links that will be distributed via social media.

- **Hays Rebels JR Classic (Boys): November 15-17.** We need help from 2pm-10pm on the Thursday and Friday of the tournament; Saturday the food truck will be onsite for the full day from 9am-4pm. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949a9a922abfe3-junior>
 - **Hays Rebels Girls Classic: November 29-December 1.** We need help from 2pm-10pm on the Thursday and Friday of the tournament; Saturday the food truck will be onsite for the full day from 9am-4pm. Sign up will be posted closer to the tournament date.
 - **Hays Rebels Varsity Classic (Boys): December 27-29.** Because this tournament will be conducted on dates when school is not in session, the food truck vendor will provide concessions on all three days, from 9am – 6pm.
- **Red & Blue Rally - Winter Sports! Wednesday, December 5.** Mark your calendars now! Tickets will be available online soon. We will be honoring the winter sports: Swim, Powerlifting, Soccer (Boys & Girls), and Basketball (Boys & Girls). That's approximately 275 student athletes who will receive a free meal. We'll be having a dinner from 5:30-6:45pm in the HHS cafeteria followed by a program from 7-8pm in Bales Gym. Parents, families, and community members will be able to purchase tickets for the meal at \$10/each. We will also need some help with ticket taking and clean-up for the event.

As a reminder for new members, below is a list of our ongoing goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

HABC Goals for 2018-2019:

- **Increase membership.** With approximately 700 student athletes across all sports, **our goal is to have at least 300 HABC family and community members.** That is less than 50% of the athletes, which is still incredibly low. But last year, there were only 89 paid HABC memberships. Please help us to change that number by inviting friends, family and community members to join, and by encouraging your fellow sports parents to join.
- **Improve inclusiveness.** One of the primary issues raised to the HABC leadership has been the perception that the boosters are only about football. This year, we want to make every possible effort to change that perception. A big way to do that is for more parents of more sports to join HABC, attend the meetings, and get involved.
- **Expand communications.** We hope to communicate more this year -- via emails like this, via our newly revamped website, via social media. But communication is a two-way street, we would love to hear from you! Comment on our posts, reply to this email, send feedback through your parent sports coordinators. (If you don't know who they are, please reply to me and I'll send you contact information.) Additionally, we'll be posting the minutes from each HABC meeting online. All meeting minutes have been posted through October and can be found here: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/info-%26-updates> (There's also a fun photo gallery with pictures that have been submitted from the various sports... have you checked it out?)
- **Implement procedures.** All volunteer organizations struggle in this area. This year one of our goals is to prepare "standard operating procedures" for things like concession stands and Bleacher Creatures, and more. In doing so, we hope to make it easier for volunteers to step-in, fill a need and know what they're doing instead of feeling uncomfortable or confused because they're just expected to know how things happen. It's our hope that this will help us to do things even more consistently from year-to-year. This probably sounds pretty boring, but it's pretty important for an organization where leaders and volunteers change every year.

Additional Booster Activity Update through November 6, 2018:

- We sold all 150 varsity season football parking passes at \$40 per season pass, and successfully staffed all of the home games for game-day \$10 parking which brought in approximately \$2000 in additional revenue. Thank you so much to the boosters who stepped in to help with parking!!
- The 2018 Bleacher Creatures program is a wrap! We had 176 Bleacher Creature sign-ups (at \$15/each), and between 75-125 of them ran at each of the various home games. Parents and kids seemed to really enjoy this fun tradition. And we appreciate Buda/Kyle Bright Beginnings for providing \$500 to help with the costs of the shirts. We also had a great group of parents and helpers (including some awesome Freshman Cheerleaders) who faithfully corralled the Creatures each week!
- The new, online webstore is live (also via the HABC website) and is continuously improving. Our partnership with BlockScreen Printing has been receiving good reviews. The BlockScreen team is very open to suggestions for additional products and for improvements to the site -- new winter sport products are going live soon (and may be up before you receive this email). Also, if you have an idea or request for a custom design, the BlockScreen team can help you make that into a reality for your team/sport. If you have questions, email HaysABC@gmail.com and we will be happy to put you in touch with the BlockScreen crew.
- We made some big changes in Bales Concessions during Volleyball season to make it less time and work intensive -- including streamlining the concessions menu and procedures, and adding some Chick-Fil-A meal deals and pizza slices. The Volleyball concessions team was amazing all season and they helped us to make a transition over for Basketball by helping to document the opening and closing processes and making some great suggestions for even more improvements.
- We are working to be more active in posting events and updates from all sports on the HABC social media platforms -- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are all active. Keep sending pictures and updates to HaysABC@gmail.com so that we can keep all of the content current!
- Shout outs to our two \$1000 sponsors (Texas Lehigh Cement and Crystal Clear Pools & Spa) and one \$500 sponsor (Bright Beginnings Schools). We would love to have MORE sponsorships, so if you have sales skills and/or know of companies who might be interested, please let us know! Sponsorship info can be found here: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/sponsorship> (and individuals or families can also be sponsors).

Below are some helpful links:

- Main HABC Site: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/>
- Membership: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/membership>
- Webstore: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/merchandise-web-store>

Feel free to share all of this with the other parents. And help us spread our 2018-19 tagline: **Fill the stands, bring the spirit, support our Hays HS student athletes!**

Celebrate the H!

Jennifer Williams

HABC President 2018-2019