

Hello SSBL Community -

I hope this finds everyone well; it sure seems as if the weather isn't cooperating with our season as of late.

As promised for the month of May, a quick recap on what's happening this month for all things SSBL:

- On Saturday April 15th at Memorial Field, we held our 5th Annual **Summit Day of Softball**, where over 200 fastpitch softball players came together over the course of the day for a mini-camp with the professional coaches at Challenge U. softball, which included a wonderful singing of the National Anthem by LCJSMS 7th Grader and Tide team member Lena Kim. Thank you to all those who attended, and to our volunteers, specifically our coordinators Natalie Lind and Nicole Spitzer, for making the day such a huge success!
- We will be holding **pitching clinics** for our fastpitch softball minor league players (grades 3/4) over the next 3 weeks for players interested in pitching in games. Minors is where players pitch for the first time in games. If your player would like to try pitching in games, please have them come to a clinic first. You must sign up [HERE](#) if interested. Please read the details on the signup genius. If sessions fill up, we will look to add additional dates. Clinics are run by Cadyn Ehrenberg, a former pitcher at Seton Hall University who was named to the 2021 Big East All-Academic Team. There is no additional charge to attend these clinics.
- On Saturday, April 15th at Jefferson Field we held our **Opening Day of Baseball**, where all Spring rec baseball players from 46 teams, t-ball through our 7-9th grade Omaha league, came together on one field for the national anthem performed by Kavya Arora and a shout out and display of enthusiasm for their team. This was followed by a special moment and first pitch by Chris Zotti, in honor of his late wife, who truly embodied sportsmanship and dedication to youth sports. The baseball season is dedicated to her family. The young athletes took their fields following the morning celebration and played their own opening games.
- **Photo day** for all Spring rec baseball and softball teams is at Jefferson Elementary school gym from 8am-12pm on Saturday, May 6; please see the league communication sent out on Sunday 4/30 for the schedule; any questions, please let us know.

- We are still in need of a few volunteers to assist us that morning; sign up and fulfill your work bond hours:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bada928a2fac16-picture#/>
- Note: Travel teams will host their own photo day this Summer
- Our **Swing for the Fences** annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, May 19 at 7:30pm at the Elks
  - Purchase your tickets today:  
<https://sjbs71.square.site/product/swing-for-the-fences-2023/32?cs=true&cst=custom>
  - Can't join us? Consider making a donation!
  - Have any connections for the fundraiser auction items? Please contact us!
- Sign up for our **Summer baseball camps**:
  - **SHS Baseball Camp (All ages)** <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/365566>

Summit High School Varsity Coach, Kevin Zaleski, will be running this one-week program focused on baseball skills development, teamwork, and safety and fun! The camp is a great opportunity to learn from an experienced varsity-level coach that is open to all ages with activities appropriate for player skill sets.

Dates: July 10-July 13 (rain date July 14) / Time: 9 AM – 12PM

Location: Memorial Field

Bring: Glove, bat, helmet, water, snack

Wear: Sunscreen, cleats and a baseball cap

Cost: \$240 per camper

- **Summit Baseball Camp (incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders through Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Graders)** <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/369763>

The Summit Baseball Camp is back for its 3rd year! This camp will be run by SSBL and Summit High School baseball alumni and is a great opportunity for youth players in Summit to improve their skills and learn from former players. The camp is designed to improve each individual player's skill set while ensuring fun and safety at the same time. There will be groups established based on age to allow the players to experience the drills with other players of similar age and skill level.

Coaching Staff: Mike Reddy and Nick Hauer, both former Summit baseball players who went on to play on the Summit High School varsity team (Mike Reddy: [mreddy7603@gmail.com](mailto:mreddy7603@gmail.com), 908-868-1214; Nick Hauer: [nhhauer8@gmail.com](mailto:nhhauer8@gmail.com), 908-656-3369)

Dates: The camp will function on a weekly basis. Campers can sign up for one week or multiple weeks.

Week 1 - June 19-21 9am-12pm

Week 2 - June 26-30 9am-12pm

Week 3 - July 5-7 (3 days) 9am-12pm

Week 4 - July 17-21 9am-12pm

*If a day of camp is canceled due to inclement weather, each camper will be permitted to attend one day of camp during any of the other weeks.*

Location: Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School

Bring: Glove, bat (optional), helmet, water, snack

Wear: Sunscreen, cleats or sneakers, and a baseball cap

Cost: \$180 per week

- Don't forget, it's not too late to **get involved** - help on the sidelines, volunteer to field prep, consider coaching next season! As you know, it surely takes a village and we'd love you to become part of ours!

As always, please reach out to us! Thanks again and enjoy the season.

Warm Regards,  
Laura Buccola, SSBL President