

Hampton Park and the Role of Volunteers

There seems to be some confusion and misconception of how Hampton Little League operates and why it operates the way it does. This is important information, please be patient, read this letter through and understand how it affects your child and your ballpark.

The Executive: Every year at the Annual General Meeting, 18 people/parents volunteer (not paid) and are elected to sit as the Executive for the upcoming season. These people meet each month for 2-3 hours until the season starts and then they meet 2 times of month totaling no less than 6 hours per month. Their purpose is to conduct the business of the league in the best interest of the players. This includes the daily operations as well as the behind the scenes administrative work.

Total meeting time commitment is approx 45 hrs

Every executive member is elected to a position, such as President, Secretary, Concession Director, Divisional Directors etc. These positions certainly will need extra time dedicated to them.

Total time commitment depends on the position.

Once the season starts, so does the "Daily Park Supervisor" job start. Each Executive member must be "park supervisor" 4 hours per week. This job includes opening and/or closing the park, selling 50/50, safety, ensuring the umpires are there and paid, answering questions, settling disputes, cleaning up (includes washrooms), locking up and whatever else that may come up.

Total time commitment is approx 40 hrs

As you can see this adds up to a minimum of 85 hours per person (times 18) and then you must add on your executive position time. Some of the Executive positions may only be 15 to 20 hours per season but other positions, such as President, Concession Director etc. may take a couple of hours per day...some days even more. On top of these positions, some executives still have some time left and they coach/manage teams or ump games, or volunteer for league related committees such as Fun Day, the dance, and this year the Provincial Tournament Committee.

The Parent: The role of the parent is vital to the daily operations of the park during the season. Parents are the ones that cheer their children on, score keep, help rake the fields after games and do a shift in the concession stand. Without this help there would simply be no games. Lets have a look at these 3 tasks.

Scorekeeping: Every parent's worst fear. For those of you that do not know how, there is always someone around willing to teach you. Why would you not want to do it? You get the best seat in the house, your attention is to the game at all times therefore you see more, learn more, and get an umpires view of things. Please....this is not too difficult to learn and we need you! Without a scorekeeper, the game will not start. It is that simple. If all parents take a turn you will only do this once or twice a season.

Time commitment is approx 5 hrs

Field Raking: Not a hard thing to learn or do and it helps out the grounds people a whole bunch. There is a right and a wrong way to do it so don't be shy and ask. Please try and do it a couple of times a year.

Time commitment is approx 1 hr

Concession: This is Hampton Park's main source of revenue outside of registration fees. All that is asked of you is to do 1 shift (per child) selling candy, pop, etc and taking orders. For those of you that would like to help out cooking we are always in desperate need of cooks.

Time commitment is approx 3 hrs

I did not produce this document because I was bored but because it has been suggested by some of the parents and fans, that Hampton should hire people to complete these duties (scorekeeping, concession, field maintenance). The following shows what it would cost the league just to pay for the Parent portion of the volunteer time and as you can see, we would have to double your registration fees.

9 hrs/child multiplied by 230 children in the park = 2070 hrs

2070 hrs at \$8.00 per hr = \$16,540

\$16,540 divide by 230 children = \$71.91

Ideally in the best interest of your child and your park, you should come out to the Annual General Meeting held each fall. The average turnout is 30 people out of a possible 400 parents. That is less than 10% of the people deciding the fate of the program. T-BALL AND MINI MINOR PARENTS! You will be running this park one day and it is imperative that you become involved, even if it is on a limited basis. Come out and learn the ropes because without you, this Little League Program cannot continue. The estimated volunteer times were given not to scare you off but to show you the time that is involved in running the program. The more people that volunteer, the less time each individual must put in.

It has also been suggested that we do not need or want any more volunteers...

NOT TRUE!!! We want and welcome anyone who wants to help out in the best interest of the program and the players. Don't be shy and come on out.

Running Hampton Little League is like running a business, it is expensive and time consuming. The Executives of past, have done well in maintaining our low registration fees. It is these fees plus the concession revenue that accounts for how we pay the bills. Some of the bills include:

Baseballs	Phone	Little League charter fees
Bats	Water	Clubhouse maintenance
Catching gear	Hydro	Signage
Umpire gear	Insurance	Advertising
Bases	Field supplies	Canada Post
Equipment bags	Photocopying	Centra gas
First aid kits	Stationary	Toiletries
Uniforms	Coaching clinics	Field rentals

Another important source of revenue is our 50/50 ticket draws. These draws pay for the children umpires and it is important so please try to purchase tickets when ever possible. Adult umpires are not paid in cash but receive a meal as a way of appreciation.

This short description is only a small part of what is needed to run a Little League program. Bottom line is we need you, the parents, to volunteer as much as possible to keep baseball going at Hampton without raising the costs. Dollar for dollar, we offer a very affordable form of sporting experience for the children and would like to continue to do so in the future.

Don't wait for the annual general meeting, contact us now! There are committees you could join, or maybe you only have an hour a week you could donate, or maybe only a few hours in total, no problem we will take it. Maybe you even have great ideas or previous experience, time saving ideas, moneymaking ideas, etc. The board is always open to listening, write them up and submit them! Please, please, please offer to help out.....you will not only benefit the program for all the players, you will be "so impressive" in your own child's eyes and you never know...it may even be fun!

Sincerely,

Al Jansen
Director of Majors
Hampton Little League
Phone Number!